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THE TIMES

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Trafalgar to sell 'Express'

The Daily Express, Sunday Express and *Daily Star* are to be sold as soon as Trafalgar House, the present owners, can find a buyer. Lord Matthews, chief executive, told print union leaders that the group titles will be sold, together with the Morgan-Grampian publishing group, as a new company Fleet Newspapers. Unions have been told that all titles will continue to publish, despite heavy losses Page 15

Tory MP attacks lorry weights

A government proposal to raise the maximum lorry weight from 32.5 to 40 tonnes will not go through without a fight, Mr Hugh Dykes, Conservative MP for Harrow, East, said. "The Government may even have to withdraw the plan," he said New weights, page 5

EEC energy agreement

An agreement on energy pricing principles to be followed throughout the EEC will be formally endorsed at a Council of Ministers meeting tomorrow. Britain took the initiative because of complaints that its industries were being hit by unfair subsidies elsewhere in the Community Page 15

Colour licence now costs £46

The price of a colour television licence went up to £46 from midnight, an extra £1 a month on the present fee of £34, which has been in force for two years. The cost of a black and white licence rises from £12 to £15 Back page

Maze solicitors in inquest clash

The 10 Maze prisoners all died from "self-imposed starvation" an inquest jury at Hillsborough, co Down, found. Solicitors for the next of kin were involved in clashes with the coroner when they tried to inject a political note into the proceedings Page 2

Esso drivers set to strike

A strike by Esso Petroleum's 1,700 tanker drivers and depot staff seemed likely as workers at almost 40 depots voted on the company's 8.1 per cent pay offer. Transport union members at the usually moderate Hythe terminal near Southampton voted overwhelmingly to strike Page 2

Sabotage cuts Angola's oil

Angola's oil output has been sharply reduced after Unita guerrillas blew up part of a refinery near Luanda. Petrofina, which operates the plant, said it would be shut for two months. The Angolan Government has blamed South Africa Page 6

England crash to Test defeat

To an accompaniment of firecrackers and roars of approval from a crowd of 50,000 England were hustled to a 138-run defeat in the first Test match by India's seam bowlers, Kapil Dev (left) and Madan Lal, who took five wickets each Page 19

Winning return for jockey

John O'Neill, the former champion National Hunt jockey, rode a winner on his return to riding at Wetherby. O'Neill shattered his leg in a fall at Bangor 13 months ago Page 21

Howe package may lead to income tax cuts

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Public spending at £115bn next year will fall as a share of national output for the first time since the Government took office. In a statement to the Commons today the Chancellor is expected to say that despite various increases in public spending the public sector share of total ouput will drop from 45 to 44 per cent. He will be vague on what his means for his Budget next year, though the outcome of the Government's attempts to cut spending and raise revenues could be to give him room for significant tax cuts in the spring.

But the balance has been achieved only by raising more from ratepayers, council tenants and the sick and by not fully compensating the unemployed for the effects of inflation.

This is how the package will look:

RATES: They will go up by 15 to 20 per cent. This is because of two things: the rate support grant is being cut for England from 59 per cent this year to 56 per cent of total local authority spending.

Secondly, the councils are being allowed to spend an extra £1¼bn above the total announced at Budget time. More than a third of this is for local authority subsidies on transport, notably in London.

Council rents: They will rise more than the rate of inflation.

State industries: They will be able to borrow an extra £1¼bn to finance investment and cover losses caused by the continuing recession.

The unemployed: An extra £¼bn will be provided for special measures to cut the dole queues and train young people.

Defence: Treasury attempts to cut big spending plans have failed. There is an extra £500m next year.

Notable areas for cuts are:

Students: Their grants will go up by only 4 per cent next year in line with the Government's pay target, which means about a 7 per cent cut in living standards.

Prescriptions: Up from £1 to £1.25-£1.30.

Although the final spending figure of 115bn is £5bn more than the Treasury's initial estimate of what previously agreed plans ought to cost the Government now recognizes that those estimates were built on excessively low guesses about pay rises and inflation.

The Government thought that the total cost of all its goods and services would go up by 7 per cent next year. It now thinks that this is about 2 per cent too low, putting a further squeeze on the volume of spending next year. The volume of spending is likely to turn out little different from the figure for the current year. The cash figure for 1980-81 is now thought to be about £2½bn above its target at £107b. But a very large contingency reserve is allocated to pay for any further spending decisions.

The question of vital importance still hanging in the air is what to do about the money from selling state assets such as the North Sea oil fields and gas assets next year. Pressure is mounting to use this money to finance tax cuts to stimulate the economy. At the same time as publishing his spending plans the Chancellor will give details of his latest economic forecast which shows output rising next year, the first such rise since he took office.

Wage earners will suffer from an increase in national insurance contributions, which might go up by as much as 1½ per centage points to cover the cost of unemployment. This is equivalent to an increase of 1p to 1½p in the pound for most ordinary taxpayers. It takes effect next spring.

Benefits

Sir Geoffrey faced continuing pressure from ministerial colleagues and Conservative backbenchers yesterday to forgo a further £170m to £180m of the savings he was hoping to make next year (Julian Haviland writes).

Emphasis on the duty of working people to support the unemployed is a central theme of the draft statement he will deliver in the Commons today.

With higher council rents, prescription charges and National Insurance contributions to announce he was reported to be still undecided about the political cost of denying full inflation protection to the unemployed, the sick and others drawing short-term benefits.

The Treasury's original plan to raise all short-term benefits next year by 5 per cent less than the cost of inflation was defeated when Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for the Social Services, objected. Those payments, which affect about 40 per cent of all payments, will be fully price-protected next year. But short-term benefits, raised last month by 9 per cent, will be lower by about 2p in the pound than the present rate of inflation.

The cost would be £170m to £180m, and having been compelled already by his Cabinet colleagues to increase next year's public expenditure by some £5,000m more than was allowed for last March, Sir Geoffrey was reluctant to yield at further sum.

Yesterday there were signs that he had relented at least to the extent of holding his hand until his Budget statement in the spring.

Councils

Announcements to be made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for the Environment today will confirm that local authorities have won a big victory in their two-and-a-half year battle with the Government over spending (David Walker writes).

They will be allowed to spend £18,000m next year, £1,000m more than was laid down in the apparently inviolable limits in the public expenditure White Paper in March, and reconfirmed in September by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

However, the Government's share of that increased total for England will be reduced from this year's 59 per cent Rate Support Grant to 56 or 57 per cent, leaving some £500m extra to be borne on the rates.

The concession on the total spending limits will mean that councils will have to cut expenditure next year by 3 per cent from this year's estimated level of expenditure, instead of the 8-9 per cent that would have been required had the Government's original targets still been in force.

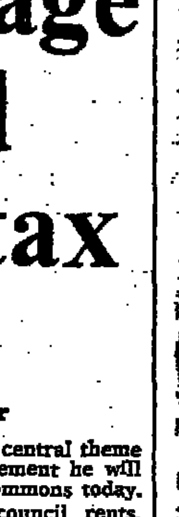
That 8-9 per cent, which is the local authorities' estimate of the cut required, is made up of 2½ to 3 per cent for the rise in prices above the Government's allowance for inflation this year, plus the 1 per cent the Government originally proposed for the reduction in local authority spending between this year and next, plus an estimated 4 to 5 per cent by which local authorities are exceeding the Government's targets for this year.

The Government has given in to councils this year because it could not face the political consequences of the chaos and damage that would be caused by forcing authorities to reduce staff and services by nearly a tenth in a single year.

Students

The only area of education spending that will be mentioned by the Chancellor today will be student grants. (Diana Geddes writes). He will announce that they will go up by only 4 per cent next year, in line with wages. That will mean a big cut in the real value of the grant because of the much higher rate at which prices are expected to rise. The minimum grant of £410 will also increase by only 4 per cent

The maximum grant for a student living away from home in London will go to £1,898; for a student living away from home out of London to £1,596; and for a student living at home to £1,227. The National Union of Students has put in a claim for a 17.4 per cent rise.



Shirley Williams back at 'old men's club'

A triumphant Mrs Shirley Williams returning to Westminster yesterday after nearly missing the train to London. Living up to her reputation, she climbed aboard the 09.05 Liverpool to Euston express with less than a minute to spare. Having won Crosby for the Social Democratic Party and Liberal Alliance, worried SDP officials drew increasingly anxious as the minutes ticked by and a Lime Street rail official said: "We are not holding up this train for anyone". As she tucked into a railway breakfast, Mrs Williams confessed that she did not fully relish the thought of her Commons comeback. "It's an old man's club and the sooner the place changes the better," she said.

"I'm delighted to be going back to do the job," she added, "but I won't pretend the Commons is a club I enjoy. Before I stood in the by-election, I thought about it long and hard and realized I had to go back but I can't pretend to like it.

"It's terribly out-dated: there's too much spare time boozing and too many old men. We could do with more women to put it into shape with regular hours of 9 to 8. Having said that, I like politics, I like by-elections, I like campaigning and I like party work. I just don't like the Commons."

Parliamentary report, page 4
Frank Johnson, back page

Reagan aide cleared on payment

From Nicholas Hirst
Washington, Dec 1

The American Justice Department today cleared Mr Richard Allen, of breaking the law in receiving $1,000 (£550) from Japanese journalists. But it is not clear whether he will be able to resume his post as the President's National Security Adviser from which he voluntarily stepped down at the weekend.

Mr Edwin Meese, the White House counsellor, said Mr Allen would not necessarily return if cleared. He said the decision would influence but not determine the issue.

Mr William French Smith, the Attorney-General, has concluded that a special prosecutor should not be appointed to investigate the payment. A Justice Department statement said: "The department has not received or discovered any specific information that Mr Allen violated federal criminal law."

Mr Allen received the money after helping to arrange an interview between Mrs Reagan and a Japanese magazine. It had not been intended as a gift to him and he had not intended to keep it, the Justice Department said.

It was unclear, however, the department said, whether a special prosecutor should be appointed to look into Mr Allen's receipt of two watches and his disclosure that he made a mistake when declaring his financial affairs on taking office earlier this year. Mr Allen has said he incorrectly stated the date when he sold his consulting firm.

Last night President Reagan was evasive when asked if Mr Allen would be staying on: "We'll have to wait and see the outcome of this", he said.

The Justice Department said it had interviewed 36 people in America and Japan about the payment. Mr Allen said he had placed the money, given by the Japanese as a "thank you" for the interview with Mrs Reagan, in a safe, intending to hand it to the Treasury, but forgot about it. The Japanese have said the money was intended for charity.

The Justice Department said there was no evidence the cash was intended for Mr Allen: "In sum, when the uncontradicted facts are analysed in the context of possible applicable criminal laws, it is clear there was no criminal violation by Allen regarding the $1,000", the statement said.

Mr Allen had not intended to keep the money for his personal use, according to the statement. "Both Allen and his secretary agree on Allen's expressed intent to turn the money over through the proper channels."

Peace formula put to BL union leaders

By David Felton and Clifford Webb

A new peace formula to end the month-long strike which has closed BL's Longbridge factory emerged last night after a secret meeting between Sir Michael Edwardes, BL chairman, and Mr Mostyn Evans, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU).

The plan, which was communicated to Midlands officials of the union, calls for a return to work under the status quo to allow a four-week cooling off period for negotiations on relaxation time.

While Sir Michael and Mr Evans were holding their lunch-time meeting at a London hotel, union pickets laid siege to the Longbridge plant. Only 3,000 of the plant's 10,000 production workers turned up for work yesterday. The company said that the number officially in dispute had risen from 2,200 on Monday to 4,000, but that figure does not take account of the further 5,000 who did not cross picket lines yesterday.

Leaders of Midlands lorry drivers pledged support for the strikers and said that no deliveries of materials will enter the plant. Since the official pickets were mounted by the TGWU on Monday afternoon no components have been delivered and only a trickle of engines and gear boxes have left for the Cowley plant, near Oxford.

Mr Brian Mathers, the TGWU's senior official in the Midlands, said the peace plan had been sent by teleprinter to the union's Birmingham office. "It means the men would resume with their full 12 per cent relaxation time allowances and it would be open to them to come out on strike again if the month produces nothing to satisfy them.

"I must emphasize, however, that because of the total lack of confidence in BL management which exists at present, I do not think that such a solution is a runner. We are deeply suspicious of management's intentions," he said.

The strike started after the company proposed cutting the 52 minutes a day relaxation time allowance to 40 minutes to compensate for the introduction of a 39-hour working week. The last negotiating meeting broke down when BL proposed that the 40-minute target should be introduced gradually by next April.

Mr Mathers said: "We have already offered to forgo our members' three-minute clocking in time allowance. We have also proposed that our members should produce as many cars in 39 hours as they did in 40 hours so that the company would not suffer any losses. This means that we would accept increased track speeds."

It is thought likely that union officials will meet BL management in Birmingham today to discuss the plan. Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW), the second largest BL union, was not invited to yesterday's talks although the union was aware they were taking place. The AUEW executive decided yesterday to pay strike pay to its members in dispute.

Mr Dennis Mills, chairman of the central union committee representing 5,000 West Midland lorry drivers, said the drivers would give total support to the BL strikers.

The 3,000 workers who reported at Longbridge yesterday were employed mainly in the engine, gearbox and foundry areas.

Thatcherite economist says he was wrong

By Melvyn Westlake

Dr Alan Budd, who together with the Government's chief economist, Professor Terry Burns, developed the economic theories on which the Government has largely based its policies during the last two years, admits that a central part of his theory is wrong.

Delivering his recantation at a seminar for economists in London yesterday, Dr Budd said that he no longer believed that inflation could be brought down reasonably quickly by allowing sterling's exchange rate to rise in value against other currencies. He now believes that the Government made a serious mistake last year when it allowed the exchange value of the pound to surge upwards.

Dr Budd is director of the Centre for Economic Forecasting at the London Business School which in the 1970s developed and elaborated a set of theories known as "international monetarism". Those theories had a considerable influence on the thinking of leading Conservatives when in Opposition.

After taking office, the present Government appointed Dr Budd's collaborator, Professor Burns, to the post of chief economic adviser and head of the government economic service.

In repudiating one of the central planks of international monetarism, Dr Budd has knocked away the theoretical justification for much of the tough action taken by Treasury Ministers. Such action, which was aimed at bringing down inflation, has also caused a deep economic depression and a huge rise in the level of unemployment.

Dr Budd has changed his mind because the economy failed to behave last year in the way that it should if his theory had been correct. According to the theory, last year's rise in the exchange rate should have sharply reduced Britain's import costs. That, in turn, should have brought down inflation in other parts of the economy because, the argument went, world prices are the main determinant of prices in Britain when currencies float against each other. But things did not turn out that way.

Between the end of 1979 and the end of 1980, the exchange rate of the pound against a basket of currencies rose about 13 per cent. At the same time, average inflation in the main industrialized countries averaged about 12 per cent. But prices in Britain rose by no less than 18 per cent.

That suggests that international competition has much less effect on the prices of our goods than exponents of international monetarism have accepted until now.

However, Professor Burns and Dr Budd originally argued that "fears of massive unemployment resulting from tight monetary policy are exaggerated".

This assurance made the high exchange rate strategy so attractive to the Government.

A royal banquet ruined

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Senior politicians were last night hauled unexpectedly from a dinner being given by the Speaker of the House of Commons for the Prince and Princess of Wales when Mr Tam Dalyell, the unpredictable Labour MP for West Lothian, staged a one-man demonstration and forced a division on whether the House should adjourn for the night.

Dinner-jacketed MPs flocked back into the Chamber wondering what was going on as the division bells began ringing.

Mr Dalyell, who has been battling on behalf of factory closures in his constituency, suddenly arrived in the House after discovering that the scheduled business of the day was folding up almost two hours ahead of time. He demanded the right to initiate another debate.

Over at the dinner in the Speaker's house, as the division bells started clanging, there was general consternation. The Prime Minister, sitting next to the royal couple, was not amused. Mr Michael Cocks, the Labour Chief Whip, rushed to apologize to the Speaker. The Speaker, in his turn, apologized to the Prince and Princess.

But it was all in vain, as far as Mr Dalyell was concerned. He lost the division by 72 votes to 32.

SDP wins control of its first council

By David Walker

The London borough of Islington will next week become the first unit of government in Britain to be run by the Social Democratic Party. It is also the only borough all of whose Labour MPs have abandoned the party. Two, Mr Michael O'Halloran and Mr John Grant have joined the SDP. Mr George Cunningham has become an independent.

Tomorrow three members of the council's ruling Labour group will announce their intention to join the social democrats, a formality that will push the strength of the new party on the council to 26 against Labour's 24 and the Conservatives' two.

At a special council meeting next week, the social democrats will announce their candidates for the leadership and the key committee chairmanships.

At a meeting of Islington Labour councillors yesterday Mr David Hyams, Mr Christopher Pryce and Mr William Moloney, members respectively for the Finsbury, St Peters and Holloway wards, announced their plans.

They voted with their colleagues at a council meeting, but from tomorrow they consider themselves free of any obligations to the party which has run municipal affairs in Islington almost since local government in London was reformed in the early 1960s.

Twenty-two of the 23 social democrats on the council changed their party label from Labour earlier this year; another was returned under Social Democratic Party colours at a by-election in September.

Their leader is the former Labour leader, Mr Gerald Southgate. By next week he is likely to be running Islington in the way he was as recently as March when he was deposed from within the Labour Party.

The man who succeeded him, Mr Donald Hoodless, said last night that an SDP-controlled council threatened the standard of services to the people. "I shall be fascinated by what they put in their manifesto for the borough elections in May next year", he said. "The issue between us is the quality of local services."

The new defectors to the SDP formerly held responsible positions in the borough's administration, implying that the new SDP council will not be short of practical experience. Mr Pryce was, until the summer, chairman of the housing committee; Mr Hyams is still responsible for new economic development in Islington.

According to Mr Moloney a distinguishing characteristic of the SDP council will be its suspicion of the local authority trade unions.

The defection to the SDP is good news for Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. Under the new party, Islington Council is likely next year to set a rate well within his guidelines

How SDP won, page 2

174 die as airliner crashes in Corsica

Ajaccio, Corsica, Dec 1.—A Yugoslav DC9 airliner carrying 174 people crashed into a mountain near here in bad weather this morning killing all on board.

The wreckage of the chartered Inex-Adria Airways jet was found by search parties on a mountainside above the village of Casa Casalabriva, about 30 miles south of Ajaccio airport, nearly four hours after contact with the aircraft was lost.

The victims had left Ljubljana in Yugoslavia for a one-day excursion to Corsica on the last day of a long Yugoslav national holiday weekend.

The aircraft sent a distress message shortly before it was due to land at Ajaccio airport. The airport control tower lost contact with the aircraft 10 minutes before it was due to land.

Weather in the mountainous area near the southern tip of Corsica was bad with low clouds, fog and high winds.

Villagers reported seeing an aircraft in trouble and others said they heard one or more explosions, possibly as the aircraft crashed into Mount San Pietro, where the wreckage was found by a helicopter.

Ajaccio police said the DC9 hit the summit scattering bodies and debris on the sides of the mountain.

Yugoslav officials confirmed that the aircraft was carrying 168 Yugoslav tourists, including three babies, and six crew members.

Ajaccio's Campo Dell 'Oro airport, the destination of the airliner does not have radar facilities, well-informed sources said here. Air traffic controllers at the airport and at Bastia airport have been demanding radar for several years.

The DC9 was the third aircraft of its kind involved in an accident this year. On July 27, a DC9 of Aeromexico crashed and burst into flames during a violent storm while flying from Mexico City to Tijuana, killing 32 of the 64 passengers.

On November 8, another DC9 of the same company crashed into a mountain while on a flight from Acapulco to Guadalajara and the 18 people on board were killed.—AP, Reuter, AFP.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Princess to miss two more visits

The Princess of Wales yesterday announced that she would not accompany the Prince on today's visit to the West Country or to the Chippenham fatstock show dinner at Chippenham on Monday.

The royal couple were scheduled to open the new maritime rescue coordination centre at Falmouth today.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that the Princess was in excellent general health but "her medical advice continues to be that she should avoid strenuous days of public engagements".

Boy helps in killer hunt

A classmate of the murdered schoolboy John Haddon, aged 13, taking part in a police reconstruction yesterday. Ben, also 13, cycled the one mile from Bishop Vesey Grammar School to Sutton Park, West Midlands, where John was last seen alive last Friday.

Jail censorship of mail relaxed

Censorship of letters from prisoners has been relaxed, Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday. That was predicted in *The Times* on September 18.

Prisoners will be able to send material for publication, subject to conditions. Prisoners were formerly entitled to write only to relatives, people they knew before they came into custody, MPs and other specified persons. Now they may correspond with anyone, with a few specified exceptions.

More Asians and blacks

The black and Asian population in Britain is estimated to have reached 2.1 million by mid-1980, according to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

They formed then 3.9 per cent of the total population, compared with 2.5 per cent, or a little under 1.4 million, in mid-1971.

Constable jailed

Det Constable Bernard Brindley, aged 35, of Hornchurch, who submitted an inaccurate report in an attempt to help a criminal was jailed for nine months by the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Lawyers clash with coroner at Maze inquest

From Christopher Thomas, Hillsborough, co Down

Armed police surrounded the village of Hillsborough yesterday for the inquest on 10 Maze prison hunger strikers who died between May and August.

Most witnesses were identified by numbers because of fears for their safety, a practice that angered solicitors representing relatives of the 10.

The solicitors repeatedly tried to inject a political note by attempting to examine the reasons for the hunger strike but were overruled by Mr Arthur Orr, the coroner. The jury returned a unanimous verdict that the hunger strikers died of self-imposed starvation.

The QC for the Crown, who was idenified but later asked reporters not to use his name because he wanted to keep a "low profile", told the jury: "It is not for us to explore questions as to why the deceased men embarked on their hunger strike or what they sought to achieve. It is neither necessary nor desirable that we at this inquest should go into such matters. Your findings are best conducted by proceeding with proper decorum and without dramatics."

Mr Kevin Agnew, a solicitor representing one of the men's families, clashed with the coroner when he asked why witnesses were being identified by numbers. Mr Orr told him: "It is a matter of public interest." Mr Agnew: "What is the purpose?" Mr Orr: "Protection of life." Mr Agnew: "I just do *not* understand that. It serves no purpose at all. It makes a farce of the whole thing."

Mr Patrick Finucane, representing the family of Mr Sands and other hunger strikers, protestd that the inquest was not concerned with the terminal cause of death. "I submit that these proceedings are entitled to look at the causational circumstances of death."

The pathologists' report on each of the 10 hunger strikers were broadly similar. Mr Sands, aged 27, a coachbuilder from Belfast, dropped from 10 to seven stone during his 66-day fast. There was a slight degree of bronchial pneumonia and an acute inflammatory condition of the lungs. Death was due primarily to starvation, and bronchial pneumonia and biochemical upsets were terminal complications.

The hunger strikers were: Robert Sands, who died after 66 days; Francis Hughes (59 days); Raymond McCreesh (60 days); Patrick O'Hara (61 days); Joseph McDonnell (61 days); Kieran Doherty (73 days); Kevin Lynch (71 days); Martin Hurson (46 days); Thomas McElwee (62 days), and Michael Devine (60 days).

□ A member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary was seriously ill in hospital last night after being shot several times by two gunmen in a terrorist ambush in Armagh town

Anti-terrorist police operations in the co Donegal area of the Irish Republic began at dawn yesterday after the discovery of a Provisional IRA training camp and arms.

The hideout was on one of a dozen or so tiny islands off the Donegal fishing village of Burtonport.

Esso faces all-out strike by drivers and depot staff

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Esso Petroleum management were steeling themselves last night for an all-out strike by their 1,700 tanker drivers and depot staff after a vote at a union meeting at a normally moderate depot which was overwhelmingly in favour of strike action.

Most of the company's 40 depots voted yesterday on whether to follow the recommendation of their senior shop stewards for a strike in protest at the company's 8.1 per cent pay offer. Any strike is unlikely to start before Monday to allow time for further negotiations to be held.

The vote among Transport and General Workers Union members at the Hythe terminal near Southampton was 66-17 in favour of a strike and after new of that result, company management were privately saying that a strike looked likely.

Workers at Shell and Texaco have also been voting on their stewards' recommendations to embark on a series of one-day random strikes.

Together the three companies supply more than half of the country's petrol and oil. In response to the strike threats, the Ministry of Defence has drawn up contingency plans to ensure that emergency supplies are delivered by using men from the armed forces.

The Ministry's plans drew criticism from Mr Jack Ashwell, the TGWU's national secretary for commercial transport, who accused the Government of scaremongering.

He pointed out that the union had always covered emergency services and would continue also to provide fuel to old people's homes, hospitals and schools.

He said: "The whole thing is totally unnecessary. It is only Esso that has threatened an all out strike and they represent a small proportion of the market.

Esso has 20 per cent of the market. Two weeks ago its drivers and depot staff voted by a 2-1 margin to reject the 8.1 per cent offer. They asked for further negotiations with the company, but when those talks were held Esso refused to make an increase.

The vote at Hythe, by a show of hands, represents only a small part of the overall work-force; but Esso management was fearful that if that normally-moderate terminal had voted for a strike, a similar pattern would emerge across the country.

Mr John Mousdale, the TGWU's district secretary in Southampton representing oil workers, said last night: "The drivers were angry at the prospect of losing their negotiating link with men in the other oil companies. They hope the threat of industrial action will restore this link."

The union is seeking an 11 per cent increase in line with a deal reached at Mobil last May. Oil distribution workers at BP, the largest supplier, have already accepted an 8.1 per cent deal.

Class war tears Labour apart

How the SDP won control of Islington

By Ian Bradley

It is no coincidence that Islington should become the first local authority to come under the Social Democratic Party's control. The Labour Party in the London borough has been split down the middle in a way that demonstrates in particularly acute form the party's difficulties nationally.

The troubled position of the Islington Labour Party derives from the nature of the borough which, until the rise of the SDP, has effectively been a one-party state. After the last borough election in 1978 the council had 50 Labour members and only two Conservatives providing the opposition. As a result, political debate effectively took place within the Labour group which encompassed a broad spectrum of opinion.

It was divided into two main factions. The larger one, which has defected en masse to the SDP, is made up of predominantly working-class, middle-aged councillors, locally born and bred, who are conservative in their outlook and policies.

The "opposition", the remaining Labour group on the council, is younger and formed of middle-class socialists who moved into Islington with the "gentrification" of Islington in the 1960s and 1970s.

Before the defections to the SDP, which began in March, there was friction between the groups. The former accuse the latter of a campaign of infiltration and "entryism" that has gradually led to left-wing control of Islington's three constituency Labour parties.

Mr James Evans, last year's mayor of the borough and one of the first Islington councillors to defect to the SDP, says: "We used to have a lot of old people come to Labour Party meetings. They had come for years although they did not always have the education to put over their views. The middle-class student types laughed at them and mocked them, and so they did not want to come.

"In the old days we had meetings and then went off to the pub afterwards. These new people started coming in with sandwiches and flasks and the meetings went on until two or three in the morning."

The younger, middle-class element sees the councillors who form the SDP group as a reactionary clique who have consistently obstructed proposed reforms and progressive measures in the town hall.

Mrs Margaret Watson, deputy leader of the Labour group, says: "The old group are not very bright. They are also very right wing, even in Tory terms. They have cut the housing programme, the grants to voluntary organizations, and the provision for under-fives.

Each side has accused the other of flouting party rules and of "fixing" key meetings. In the Islington, North, party, for example, the left is accused of bringing people in a minibus from Haringey to vote, while the right is charged with packing meetings with "false" delegates from the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The balance between the factions has see-sawed over the past 10 years. In 1978, the "Irish old guard" regained control of the North. Since then the left has increased its hold on the three constituency parties.

Last month, Mr John Grant, MP for Islington, Central, announced his defection to the SDP. On Monday, Mr George Cunningham, member for Islington, South, and Finsbury, became the borough's third MP to resign from the Labour Party.

The scale of the defections to the SDP in Islington could serve to highlight serious internal differences within the local SDP. It is not too much to say that the division that hurt the Labour Party is reproducing itself in the Islington SDP.

Rubens for the Courtauld Institute

A detail from the Rubens masterpiece *Landscape by Moonlight*, which is to be purchased for the Courtauld Institute of the University of London through contributions from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Victoria and Albert Museum. The price is undisclosed, but the painting, part of the Princes Gate Collection of Count Antoine Seilern, is thought to be worth about £1m. Death duties necessitated its sale. The purchase, announced by Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, in Parliament on Monday, will enable the Courtauld to keep the Seilern collection intact.

Brixton raid police are cleared

By David Nicholson-Lord

Police officers accused of leading a trail of unnecessary damage behind them in a search for petrol bombs in Brixton after the summer riots are not to be prosecuted, it was disclosed yesterday.

The raids on about a dozen houses in Railton Road, known as the front line, took place in July and led to widespread protests. But after an investigation and report by Mr Geoffrey Dear, deputy assistant commissioner, the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided against prosecuting any of the officers involved.

The announcement produced an angry reaction in Brixton. Mr Rene Webb, director of the Melting Pot Foundation on Railton Road, who visited the houses soon after the raid, said that many people, especially those whose houses were affected, would be terribly upset.

Scotland Yard said internal disciplinary proceedings against the officers would now be considered. But it also said Mr Dear's report showed that many householders had claimed for damages not caused by police.

A spokesman said: "The investigation produced evidence that people other than police entered the addresses concerned after police had gone, stole property, and did the damage. We have not been able to pinpoint the individuals concerned."

The police had nevertheless met claims for damage not caused by them in the interests of community relations, he said.

Although residents said the police had been deliberately heavy-handed in the raids, only one official complaint was received, the police said.

But the investigation took in all the houses raided.

Science report

New test to detect blood disease

By Our Medical Correspondent

A child born with the genetic disorder thalassaemia has a grim outlook. Even with the best medical treatment the severe anaemia will stunt growth; the heart, liver and spleen become enlarged, and chronic invalidism ends in early death.

In many Mediterranean countries as many as 10 per cent of the population are carriers of the disease, and when two carriers marry, one in four of their children will have thalassaemia.

In 1975 techniques were developed for diagnosing thalassaemia in the foetus in early pregnancy, so that the parents could choose to have the pregnancy terminated. An unofficial registry is being maintained at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, and so far 1,705 tests have been carried out in London, Athens, Sardinia, Paris, Munich and other cities.

A combination of screening and counselling adults for the carrier state and testing in pregnancy has dramatically reduced the numbers of infants with thalassaemia born in the Cypriot community both in London and in Cyprus, where only a quarter of the expected total were born in 1979.

Nevertheless, the tests on the foetus for thalassaemia (and other haemoglobin disorders such as *sickle cell* disease) cannot be carried out until the eighteenth to twentieth week of pregnancy; termination at that stage carries physical risks for the mother and is also more emotionally distressing.

A new technique that may make diagnosis possible much earlier in pregnancy is being studied at St Mary's Hospital and University College Hospital, London.

Instead of waiting until the foetus is big enough for a blood sample to be taken, the new method relies on direct analysis of the DNA, the genetic code, in cells taken from the chorionic villi in the junctional area between the developing embryo and the wall of the uterus.

Tests in women having terminations early in pregnancy for other reasons have shown that the technique works; what remains to be established is whether early in pregnancy small samples of the chorionic villi can be removed without risk to the mother or to the pregnancy.

The DNA analysis takes 11 days. So with early recognition of pregnancy and early medical referral for testing, termination could be advanced to the tenth to twelfth week of pregnancy, making the procedure simpler, cheaper, safer and less distressing.

Source: *Lancet* (November 21, p 1,125).

Classrooms closed by cuts march

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

About two-thirds of inner London's schools and colleges closed yesterday afternoon as about 15,000 teachers, lecturers, other educational staff and parents took to the streets to protest against predicted cuts of at least £100m in London's education budget next year.

The Inner London Education Authority has forfeited its entire government grant of £125m this year because its planned expenditure of £700m is 50 per cent higher than its grant-related expenditure, or what the Government assesses it would need to spend in order to provide a "standard" level of service.

This year, it has been able to make good that loss of grant by increasing the rates. Next year, however, it fears that it will be prevented from doing so as a result of the measures in the Government's Local Government Finance Bill, by which the Government intends to curb high-spending authorities such as the ILEA.

At a press conference preceding yesterday's march and mass lobby of Parliament, Mr Robert Richardson, general secretary of the Inner London Teachers' Association, said that they believed it was the Government's intention to slash the ILEA's budget by a sixth. A cut of that order would mean the loss of about 3,500 teachers and a similar number of non-teaching staff.

"There is a sense of anger that, having decided not to break up the ILEA last year, the Government is now seeking to strangle the authority by cutting off its resources", he said.

Even if the authority abolished all nursery education, the entire educational youth service, and the whole of the school meals and milk service, the savings would still not add up to what was required. All the services would have to be cut and standards would inevitably fall sharply.

Mr David Triesman, general secretary of the inner London region of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (Natfhe), said that they believed London's entire adult education service would go, at least one of London's five polytechnics would be closed, and important departments in other polytechnics and colleges would close

Later, at a rally in Westminster, Mr Malcolm Lee, national president of Natfhe, said that thousands of applicants for places in polytechnics and other colleges throughout the country would be disappointed next year.

Union leaders will meet Tebbit on labour law

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Union leaders are to take up an invitation from Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, for talks on his proposed Bill on labour law reform, to be introduced in the new year.

They will reject outright his plan to put union funds at risk over industrial action, arguing that his ideas "could hardly be more dangerous".

The TUC Employment Policy and Organization Committee yesterday endorsed a confidential policy paper which insists that the Cabinet's proposals "strike at the very heart of essential freedom".

Union leaders are drawing up a counter-response to the Government's policies to be officially endorsed at a meeting on December 16 and then put to ministers as the basis of organized labour's position.

Meanwhile the unions are planning a campaign to alert union officials and activists to the implications of the government proposals and to mobilize the labour movement in opposition.

While this militant position will be publicly stated, the TUC still hopes to change Mr Tebbit's mind. Some of the proposals in his discussion document are only "under consideration", the TUC document says.

"Moreover, there are some signs that employers and sections of the Conservative Party are becoming sceptical about further legislation, and so there remains the possibility that the legislation may be changed as a result of vigorous campaigning and lobbying."

However, fearing the worst, the TUC is organizing a special conference of trade union national officers early in the new year to determine the next phase of its opposition campaign to the labour law package.

But political moves are already under way to try to frustrate Mr Tebbit's will, but with Labour's front bench and even Conservative backbenchers.

The TUC discerns "indications of dissatisfaction" with Mr. Tebbit's proposal among some Conservative backbenchers, arguing "this needs to be followed up".

Examining in detail the proposal to curtail union immunities, the TUC document says: "These proposals have dangerous implications for unions, and revive one of the most controversial and fundamental issues in British labour law.

"In making unions financially vulnerable in this way, the Government's intention is to encourage unions to exert greater control from the centre over the actions of officials and members.

"But not only does the Government entirely ignore unions' purpose and functions and the democratic basis of trade union organization, it also underestimates the dangers in terms of damage to industrial relations which could result from adopting this discredited approach once again. It will enable employers and others to bankrupt unions through claims for damages."

Turning to the government proposal to withdraw immunity from disputes of a "mainly political or personal" nature, the TUC says: "As 'political' disputes are already unlawful (eg, Express Newspapers v Keys concerning the TUC's day of action in 1980), it is difficult to see what further restrictions the Government could make.

Disputes among public servants about wages or conditions might run contrary to government policy and therefore risk being deemed "political".

On selective dismissal, the TUC suggests that Mr Tebbit's proposal is dangerous and designed to widen employers' ability to use the sanction of dismissal to undermine the solidarity of workers in dispute.

£300m youth training plea

The Government will be presented later this week with proposals for a radical new aproach to youth unemployment, requiring up to £300m a year of extra spending. It would lead to all school leavers taking part in job training up to the age of 18, possibly with legislation to compel them to do so.

New measures, proposed by the Manpower Services Commission, are aimed at abolishing the present Youth Opportunities Programme, which has been criticized by both sides of industry, and drawing in resources from other training programmes for young people to create a new training system.

The commissions proposals are being sent to Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

The commission's submission to Mr Tebbit also draws the minister's attention to the question of whether legislation should be introduced to compel all school leavers, who do not enter further education, to join

Leading article, page 11

Thames launches equality for women project

By Kenneth Gosling

An investigation into opportunities for women is being launched by Thames, one of the "big five" independent television companies, after an approach by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The scheme, to be known as a positive action project, will begin in the new year, and Thames is understood to be the first television company in Britain to adopt a policy of positive action in favour of women.

Thames's decision to undertake the project, in agreement with the commission and the National Council for Civil Liberties comes in the wake of a report prepared by Miss Sadie Roberts, a barrister for the NCCL.

Thames's programme will include appointing an executive director to form a special committee, introducing training courses on equal opportunities, developing a code of practice for interviewing, and providing more detailed monitoring on women's positions within the company.

Thatcher promises museum grant rise

□ Accused by Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, of taking a barbaric approach to the funding of the national museums, Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday assured the Commons that there would be a bigger increase in the grant next year than in 1981-82 (Hugh Noyes writes).

She reminded MPs that the present grant for museums was 7 to 8 per cent above that for 1980-81.

Mr Foot, alarmed by a warning on Monday by Dr David Wilson, director of the British Museum, that it would have to close if the Government did not increase its funding, said that he knew the barbarians on the Conservative benches were not interested in such things.

He went on to demand an undertaking from the Prime Minister that she would intervene to put a stop to such nonsense.

Mrs Thatcher said that the museums could look forward to some increase next year although the precise amount would have to await the full public expenditure results.

Although the Prime Minister did not divulge whether the increase would be in real terms, she considered that her response was reasonable under all the circumstances.

Victory for arts over Treasury

□ A small victory for the defenders of the arts against the Treasury axeman was marked up yesterday by the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts when the Government cancelled its decision to withdraw financial support for the International Centre for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome (Our Political Staff writes).

The amount involved was only £39,000 a year. It amounted to 1 per cent of the annual British contribution to Unesco. But the select committee received many representations from people

It was founded in 1959 and is an international centre for the exchange of information and research in the whole field of conservation.

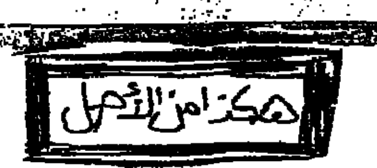
A joint statement from the Minister for Overseas Development (the payment was made under this heading) and the Minister for the Arts, released yesterday, said British withdrawal . . . "would cause considerable anxiety internationally and could weaken the effectiveness of the organization".

Parliamentary report, page 4

ADVERTS ON TAXI DOORS

The police yesterday gave the go-ahead for London's 12,000 black taxis to display advertisements on the outside of their front doors. Cab drivers said the decision, which comes after a year of negotiations, would mean welcome extra revenue

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 25; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 35; Canada $2.50; Canaries Pes 125; Cyprus 500 mils; Denmark Dkr 7; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk 6.50; France Frs 6.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 75; Holland Gl 3; Iran IR 135; Iraq LD 0.500; Irish Republic 30p; Italy L 1600; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon LL 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 75; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 7; Norway Kr 6.60; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 75; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 3.25; Singapore $4.5; Spain Pes 125; Sweden Skr 7.00; Switzerland Frs 3.00; Syria LS5.50; Tunisia Di .600; USA $1.50; UAE Dir 7.0; Yugoslavia Din 50.



NEWS IN SUMMARY

Charge of murder dropped

A charge of murder against a German businessman accused of strangling his wife was dropped yesterday.

The move came in the ninth day of the "Watership Down" murder trial at Winchester Crown Court, when the judge told the jury to disregard the murder charge against Ulf Hinsch, aged 43, of Braintree, Essex.

The trial will continue with Mr Hinsch facing the lesser charge of manslaughter.

The body of Jeanette Hinsch, aged 28, was found on Watership Down, a Hampshire beauty spot, six years ago.

Air fares to Hongkong up

Economy fares to Hongkong go up by about a tenth from March. But at least one airline, British Caledonian is reducing its first-class fares by the same amount from January (Our Transport Correspondent writes). Fares to Hongkong collapsed last year when the Civil Aviation Authority broke British Airways' monopoly by allowing British Caledonian and Cathay Pacific to join the route, but have been creeping up since.

Town moves V2 driver

Residents of Stony Stratford, Buckinghamshire, asked Mr David Oakley, a lorry driver, to leave town when he arrived in the market square with his 46ft-long load, a German V2 rocket. When the police switchboard was jammed with more complaints, he was advised to take his load to a lay-by half a mile away.

Mr Oakley was transporting the 36-year-old rocket from Cranfield Institute of Technology to the Science Museum's airfield site in Wroughton, near Swindon, Wiltshire.

Liza Goddard's quiet wedding

Liza Goddard, aged 31, the actress (above), and Alvin Stardust, aged 37, the singer, were married yesterday, five weeks after the birth of their daughter.

The only guests at Wood Green Register Office, north London, were Miss Goddard's son Tom, aged five, by her previous marriage, the baby's nanny, and a freelance photographer.

Fireman trapped in test mishap

A rescue exercise turned into a real emergency yesterday when an RAF helicopter had to rescue a fireman trapped up to his chest in mud at Sheerness, on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent.

Local firemen were demonstrating new equipment designed to speed rescues in quicksands and mud when Mr Terry Hughes, aged 20, a part-time fireman who had volunteered to be half buried in mud, became trapped.

£7,042 compensation

Garry Ralston, aged 22, and Paul Nicholls, aged 21, both of Manchester, who were dismissed as garage mechanics for allegedly stealing 25p worth of waste diesel oil, were awarded compensation of £3,612 and £3,430 respectively by an industrial tribunal in Manchester yesterday.

Jail overcrowding

Measures aimed at cutting prison overcrowding will be disclosed by prison governors after the annual meeting of the Society of Civil and Public Servants' governors' branch today. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, was given the proposals at a meeting last night.

Holly prices soar

Keen bidding at the annual sale of holly, mistletoe, and Christmas trees at Tenbury Wells, Hereford and Worcester, yesterday, sent holly prices to £50 a hundredweight for the best varieties, well up on last year's figure.

Major dies after run

Major Richard Wilkinson, aged 37, collapsed when running in a fitness test in Windsor Great Park yesterday and died late in hospital. He was second in command of The Blues and Royals.

Three schoolboy torturers get 32 years in jail

Three schoolboys who preyed on old people in east London were sentenced to a total of 32 years' detention by the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

One victim, a widow aged 85, died. Another widow had a narrow escape from death.

Sentencing the boys, now aged 15, the Common Serjeant, Judge Tudor Price, told them that their conduct was callous and merciless in the extreme.

"In each case all of you showed total indifference to the suffering of your victims, the experience of which is likely to remain in their thoughts as long as they live." He added: "Anyone of any age who attacks old people in order to rob them can expect heavy sentences from the court".

George Vinyard, of Malcolm Road, Mile End, east London, received 12 years, and Simon Marius, of Lang Street, Mile End, and Graham Hunt, of Hackney Road, Bethnal Green, east London were sentenced to 10 years.

They had all been found guilty by a jury, by a ten-to-two majority, of the manslaughter of Mrs Rose Daniels, aged 85, at her council flat in Summit Estate, Clapton Common, Clapton, in May. They were acquitted of her murder.

The boys pleaded guilty to robbing her and further admitted robbing Mrs Deborah Silver, aged 77, at her home in Stepney, of rings, watches, cash, and other articles. Simon Marius and George Vinyard admitted also robbing Mrs Ellen Roff, aged 68, of watches, a silver pendant, cash, and a Coronation crown, at her home in Bethnal Green.

Graham Hunt and George Vinyard also admitted robbing Miss Emily O'Shea, aged 67, of watches, a medallion, and cash at her home in Limehouse. They further admitted robbing Mr Abraham Diamond, aged 74, of £6 as he took a lift to his flat in Limehouse.

Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, said that Mrs Daniels, who was 4ft 6in tall, frail, and weighed only six stones, liked feeding the pigeons from her balcony. She was seen by the boys from a bus. They selected her as a victim, burst into her flat and punched and kicked her without mercy.

Mrs Daniels was thrown to the floor where she was bound hand and foot and tightly gagged. Fighting for breath, she was bundled into a broom cupboard and left to suffocate to death.

Mrs O'Shea was also in her flat tied up and her television set was smashed with a hammer to make her tell where her money, a few pounds, was kept. The raiders took that and ripped a gold medallion from her neck before fleeing.

Mr Diamond was attacked in a lift at his block of flats and forced to hand over £6. He was so shocked by the ordeal that afterwards he refused to open the door to anyone, including the police.

Mrs Silver almost suffered the same fate as Mrs Daniels. The boys forced their way into her flat, where she was handcuffed, a black cloth was put over her head and a cord tied round her neck.

They pelted her with eggs from the kitchen, snatched a chain from her neck, tore the rings from her fingers, and took £20 from her purse and £8 from a meter. They then locked her in a small kitchen cupboard from which she was later rescued.

Police plan for 24-hour Toxteth foot patrol

From John Chartres Liverpool

A new system of policing the still sensitive and disturbed Toxteth area of Liverpool is to be put to community leaders on December 14 at a meeting chaired by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, Mgr Derek Worlock. Eighty community relations organizations will be invited to attend.

That was announced by Chief Constable of Merseyside, Mr Kenneth Oxford, at a meeting of the county police committee yesterday.

Mr Oxford's plan in line with suggestions in the Scarman Commission report involves the creation of a Toxteth section of his force under the command of a chief inspector, with police in pairs patrolling on foot 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The policemen and policewomen, who will include trained community liaison officers and plainclothes detectives, posted to the new section will remain in it for long periods to maintain continuity. Mr Oxford said: "I want to build the sort of rapport of yester-year between the policeman on the beat and the community".

"This will be real grassroots policing. I hope to make it 'sacrosanct' and none of the officers involved will be diverted unnecessarily to other duties or training courses."

He said that he hoped to improve the status of the policeman on the beat in recruiting, advertising and publicity. There was a tendency to debase that type of work with too many ambitious young recruits wanting quickly to become motor cyclists or detectives.

Lady Simey, chairman of the committee, who has had differences with Mr Oxford, promised the Chief Constable of her support and that of the authority.

The committee also discussed a report on events since the Toxteth riots of last July in the light of the Scarman report.

A resolution carried in spite of opposition from the Conservative minority placed on record, however, the committee's abhorrence of the use in policing of any form of paramilitary equipment, such as CS gas, water cannon, or armoured vehicles.

The resolution requested the Chief Constable to ensure that it would never be necessary to have such equipment deployed on Merseyside.

Mr Oxford said that was asking for Utopia. "I go along with abhorrence of the use of such equipment, but I have not got the sort crystal ball to be able to ensure that it will never be needed again.

"I am not too sure either whether it escalates or contains street violence."

US inner cities model for british

☐ Difficult inner city areas could be helped to revive by development on the pattern seen in some old cities in the north east of the United States, including the creation of conference and exhibition halls, leisure attractions, speciality shopping, and the conservation of historical buildings (Our Commercial Editor writes).

That was urged yesterday by Mr Michael Montague, chairman of the English Tourist Board in a plan put to 15 top financial institution managers and bankers, part of the inner city advisory task force set up by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, after the inner city riots.

Jonathan Player

The child's horror of bath time: Reuben, Bristol Zoo's one-year-old gorilla, takes on an almost human expression in the tub, wrinkling up his face as he is soaped down by Mr Mike Colbourne, his keeper.

Mother and son fined for vice conspiracy

The son of Mrs Rosetta Simpson went "from rags to riches" in three years from the proceeds of her huge prostitution racket, a court heard yesterday.

Christopher Simpson let his mother's massage agency use his respectable businesses as a front. He also obtained suitable premises for her, the court was told, interviewed girls, and was responsible for advertising the agency in pornographic magazines.

Mr Lionel Lassman, for the prosecution, told Knightsbridge Crown Court that in 1975 Mr Simpson was living in a furnished room in Earls Court paying £12 a week rent. In 1979 he bought a house in Stag Lane Buckhurst Hill, Essex, for £45,000.

"Christopher Simpson, starting from modest means, went from rags to riches in three years," Mr Lassman said.

Simpson, 29, of Old Marylebone Road, Marylebone, London, was fined £40,000 and ordered to pay £1,000 costs after he admitted conspiring with his mother and others to live on the immoral earnings of prostitution. Mrs Simpson, aged 54, of Grove Hill, Woodford, Esssex, was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £5,000 costs after she was found guilty on Monday of conspiring to control the movements of prostitutes.

The court heard that Mrs Simpson's massage agency employed 40 girls. They were equipped with bleepers to summon them to top hotels, including the Savoy and the Waldorf, at all hours.

Mr Lassman estimated that the firm made £100,000 a year profit from girls' having sexual intercourse with their clients.

The women, aged between 23 and 33, came from all over the world and most operated under false names such as Kitten, Angel, Mandy and Lady Jane.

The ring, one of the largest ever found in London, was uncovered by the police when they raided Mrs Simpson's premises in 1979 after a two-year investigation.

Mr Lassman said substantial receipts from prostitution went into bank accounts Mr Simpson had established.

He said cheques worth £130,000 passed through belonging to a bogus restaurant company. The agency also received big cash payments which were absorbed into other accounts.

At one stage the agency was using a credit card facility for customers.

GLC blind to facts on fares, QC says

By Frances Gibb

The Greater London Council's decision to go ahead with its cheaper fares scheme in "deliberate defiance of the facts" was perverse and unlawful, Mr David Widdicombe, QC, told the Law Lords yesterday.

Mr Widdicombe said that the council had asked its officials to provide information on what the effects might be of levying an extra rate to pay for a cut of one quarter in Underground and bus fares.

But it had then brushed aside those relevant factors, Mr Widdicombe said. The ruling Labour group on the council appeared to have been "blind and deaf to what their officers put before them. It is perverse to say that a fares reduction will have a substantial effect on passenger traffic and traffic congestion when you have been told it will do nothing of the kind."

Mr Widdicombe was making submissions for the London Borough of Bromley on the fifth day of the appeal by the GLC before Lord Wilberforce (presiding), Lord Diplock, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Scarman, and Lord Brandon sitting as the Lords Appellate Committee.

The GLC is contesting a Court of Appeal ruling which upheld a claim by Bromley that the council acted unlawfully in levying a 6.1p rate to pay for a cut in fares under its "Fares Fair" scheme launched on October 4. The Labour group was determined to go ahead and stick rigidly to its policy, taking not the slightest heed of the disadvantages, Mr Widdicombe said.

Those included the loss of revenue involved, involving the loss of a government block grant as a penalty for overspending, the fact that passenger usage would rise by only 6 per cent, and traffic congestion ease by about 1 per cent.

Letters obtained by Bromley since the Court of Appeal ruling reveal that the council was well aware that there would be no waiver by the Government of the penalty of loss of block grant for overspending, he said.

The hearing continues today.

Slimming case doctor accused

A woman's addiction to a slimming drug turned her into an alcoholic, it was said yesterday. The General Medical Council's professional conduct committee was told that she also lost jobs, took an overdose, lost her home, and was convicted for shoplifting because of the drug.

The committee was considering a charge of serious professional misconduct against Dr Zakaria Mohammed Asfoury, whose address was registered Devonshire Place, Westminster. He was alleged to have abused his professional position by supplying Dexamphetamine repeatedly in return for fees without adequately examining the patients, without making inquiries about their physical and mental health, or about the effect on them of the treatment.

Mr Stephen O'Malley, for the council, said Mrs Sally Langley, of King's Hall Road, Beckenham, Kent, lost four and a half stone in six months, but the treatment was continued for five years.

The hearing continues today.

Top-grade civil servants face tough jobs scrutiny

By Peter Hennessy

The Government is to mount an attack on the number of officials in the top three grades of the Civil Service in an attempt to undo part of the explosion in senior Whitehall manpower that took place under the Wilson and Heath administrations.

Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State at the Treasury announced yesterday that all 742 posts at under — secretary level and above would be examined to see if their continued existence were justified. Senior officers in the Armed Forces would also be scrutinized.

The announcement was made to coincide with the publication of a review of the chain of command at the summit of the Whitehall hierarchy undertaken by Sir Geoffrey Wardale, former Second Permanent Secretary at the Department of the Environment.

He recommended that all three ranks of permanent, deputy, and under-secretary should be retained, but insisted that "each job should have a firm, tangible core of its own.

"Ministers and the community will be better served if all jobs are real with a challenging but attainable contribution expected from each one. Such clarity should actually reduce the total quantity of work to be done, though not the results achieved from it", Sir Geoffrey found.

The Government had trimmed the number on the top three grades from the 822 officials it inherited on May, 1979, to 742 by October 1, this year a cut of 10.6 per cent. Each department is now required to submit the results of its scrutiny of senior men to the Treasury by next March 31, when ministers will decide where further reductions are to fall.

The Association of First Division Civil Servants, which represents senior officials, welcomed Sir Geoffrey's recommendation that no grade should be abolished.

Retrial for death case driver

A complaint about newspaper headlines led yesterday to a judge's ordering the retrial of a man who has denied causing the death by dangerous driving of Donald Ranger, managing director of the Heron Motor Corporation.

Dismissing the jury on the second day of the case at Kingston Crown Court, Surrey, Judge Rubin said of newspaper coverage: "Some of these reports contain headlines of a very prejudicial nature like 'Death race' and 'Horror race', although my personal view is that this is very much a borderline case".

Mr Barry Hudson, QC, representing Ricardo di Tommaso, aged 39, of Mulberry Trees, Shepperton, Middlesex, told the judge that reporting of the first day of the trial was factually correct, but headlines describing the way Mr Ranger died had been emotive, dramatic, and inaccurate.

He said: "The *Daily Express* has a dramatic headline 'Film chief accused over 120mph race of death'. Apart from the *Mail* and the *Express*, *The Times* has 'Car race ended in death'.

"There is an even worse headline in *The Sun* on page five describing a '120mph horror race' which goes further than the 'death race' of the *Express* and the *Mail*."

Mr Hudson said he was certain that the majority of the jury would have read the headlines which, because of their emotive nature, had distorted the case. They might have discussed the case with their spouses at the breakfast table and "there might be a gut reaction to these headlines".

The judge said that as it was a short case where such things would remain fresh in the memory he would order a retrial "sometime next term when memories of these headlines have disappeared".

Mr Di Tommaso had his unconditional bail renewed.

£3,000 for a victim of the Ripper

A woman who survived an attack by the Yorkshire Ripper was awarded £3,000 interim compensation by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in Leeds yesterday.

Miss Marcella Claxton, aged 25, of Sholebroke Avenue, Chapeltown, Leeds, was hit over the head with a hammer eight or nine times in May, 1976.

Her original application in 1978 was refused on the basis of her way of life, and that she had "clearly misled the police and provoked the attack".

Her appeal against that decision yesterday came after the conviction of Peter William Sutcliffe, who murdered 13 women and attempted to murder.

The hearing at Leeds Town Hall was held in camera, but a spokesman for Miss Claxton's solicitors said afterwards that the board had upheld the appeal after hearing fresh evidence and argument, including evidence from the officer who interviewed Mr Sutcliffe, who pleaded guilty to Miss Claxton's attempted murder.

Miss Claxton, who denies that she was ever a prostitute, said after yesterday's hearing: "I am happy with the decision".

PLEDGE ON DOCTORS' HOURS

Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, last night promised action to try to reduce the risk to patients posed by hospital doctors' working 100 hours or more a week. He said his department shared doctors' concern about excessive hours and was setting up a conference in February to discuss the problem.

Junior hospital doctors welcomed Dr Vaughan's initiative, but made clear that they felt the conference should have been called sooner.

Dr Michael Rees, chairman of the British Medical Association's hospital juniors, said: "we are particularly concerned that there should be no undue delay in solving the problems. We cannot afford to wait until February next year to begin".

Chess leaders pull away

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Hebden and Westerinen are drawing away from the rest of the fields in the Lewisham international tournament at Catford. Both won their games in the seventh round yesterday. Westerinen steadily outplaying his fellow grandmaster, Kuligowski, and Hebden efficiently disposing of the Spaniard, Lorenzo-Garcia. By winning that game, Hebden attained the international master norm.

The most striking result of the round was the victory of the under-16 world champion, Stuart Conquest, over the Polish international master, Pytel.

The leading scores, with two rounds to go are: Hebden and Westerinen 6; Povah 5; Berg, Conquest, Fedorowicz, Kosten, Kuligowski and Martin 4½...

PARLIAMENT December 1 1981

MPs want TV fee concession for pensioners

BBC FINANCES

The decision to increase the fee for a colour television licence from £34 to £46 and for a black and white TV licence from £12 to £15 was announced by Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, in a statement to the Commons. The new fees would, he said, come into effect at midnight, and should last for at least three years.

Mr Whitelaw, indicating that he had laid the necessary regulations bringing the new fees into force, said the BBC had applied for an increase in the colour licence fee to about £50 to last for three years. In considering that, it was his duty to ensure that the corporation's home services were adequately funded and at the same time to have regard to what was fair to the licence fee payer.

In announcing the increases, Mr Whitelaw said he would be making it clear to the BBC that he would expect it to pay off its current deficit and live within the revenue which these new levels of fees would produce until the end of the 1984-85 financial year.

My purpose in deciding on an increase to last for at least three years (he continued) is to make the licence fee system work as it should.

It is also my aim to fix the level of fees for a period which will enable the corporation to plan ahead more effectively. A three year increase will require considerable financial discipline on the part of the corporation; and the extent to which it will be able to pursue its plans for new or improved services will depend crucially on its ability to keep down its costs, particularly labour costs.

In this context the board of governors has announced that it has commissioned a wide ranging review of the systems by which the BBC monitors its efficiency. I welcome this decision, which indicates how seriously the board of governors take their responsibility for ensuring that the licence fee paying public get an efficient service and value for money.

I recognize that it is not easy for some people to find the licence fee in a single lump sum each year. I therefore intend to provide a range of means to enable members of the public who wish to do so to spread the cost of the licence fee over the year.

To supplement the successful and widely-used television saving stamps scheme, I have approved plans for the introduction of payments by instalments.

We propose in the course of next summer to start accepting monthly instalments towards the following year's licence fee by means of direct debit from bank accounts, and to introduce at least a pilot scheme for payment by credit cards.

This will be followed, I hope by the summer of 1983, by a scheme for the payment of monthly cash instalments over post office counters towards the following year's fee.

I believe that the three year increases which I have today announced, coupled with greater flexibility in the methods of payment, will do much to strengthen the licence fee system and preserve the independence of the BBC.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab): We believe the BBC should be financed in a way that preserves its independence and enables it to maintain the high level of its programmes. We also agree that income of the sort the Government proposes is necessary and it should be obtained by means of licence fees.

However, a television licence fee of £46 will bear particularly heavily on some members of the public, particularly retirement pensioners. The fact that the increase will be reflected in the retail price index is really of no comfort since at best the pension will be adjusted next November and at worst next year's increase will not fully reflect the change in the cost of living, nor will the availability of easy payment schemes be of much benefit to most pensioners few of whom, contrary to what has been said, possess credit cards and all of whom will be required to pay instalments on next year's licence this year in advance of receipt of programmes.

Therefore we will not support the proposed increase unless some sort of concession is made for retirement pensioners and the chronically sick.

May I suggest one means of raising compensating revenue for that purpose? It is absurd that, let us say, the Savoy hotel with hundreds of television sets used for commercial purposes should pay the same fee as a single pensioner. Should there not be a separate and higher commercial fee, separate from and higher than the domestic licence, and should it not be levied on every set in commercial use?

Mr Whitelaw: I am glad to hear him accept that the licence fee is the best method of financing the BBC. I am also glad to hear the income I have designed through this fee is what he believes to be correct for the next three years.

When he comes to the question of pensioners, I accept that this is a considerable anxiety with regard to them, so the easy payment scheme which I have proposed will supplement the television stamps which are available to pensioners and should be helpful because a very large proportion of the television licences are now taken out by this method and that shows it is valuable and worth while.

As to the hotels, I accept this problem. We had a working party on the problem which recommended that hotels should pay more. I am prepared to consider how best to implement that proposal.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L): Why can we not have a scheme of paying by instalment for current licence fee to help pensioners. If it is desirable to give the BBC three years' freedom from having to go to the Government, is not the Government going to have to do better to control inflation for the scheme to work?

Mr Whitelaw: In fixing the licence fee it was important to decide on a large number of different assumptions. That has been done. The figure meets the requirement to be fair to the BBC to produce their programmes and to those in the country who pay the fee.

As for pensioners, I thought I had produced many proposals which would help. I am prepared to consider any others that fall within the instalments scheme.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab): Would he consider allocating a small proportion of the licence fee specifically for the subtitling of television programmes for deaf people.

Mr Whitelaw: I believe the BBC have made considerable efforts for deaf people. I know they wish to go further and will certainly seek to do so.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South-West Staffordshire, C): There would be enormous support in the country for a concessionary scheme for pensioners even if it meant the rest of us having to pay slightly more than £46.

Mr Whitelaw: I accept that entirely, but he has to appreciate some of the problems involved. If we were to give a concession to pensioners' households a colour television licence would have to rise to £70.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C): There are more deaf people in the country than Welsh people. Does he not think even greater regard should be given to the needs of deaf people?

Mr Whitelaw: The BBC have gone a long way to deal with the problems of deaf people. I hope they will be able to go further. The licence fee was also fixed in consideration of what the BBC will be able to do in Wales with Welsh programmes.

Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield, East, Lab): Many people feel he has missed an opportunity to take the licence fee out of the political arena. Yet again many people will see political intimidation of the BBC in the three year period up to the general election.

Mr Whitelaw: I would have thought by setting the clear position of the BBC for three years ahead we would be doing the exact opposite of what he said.

Mr Edward Lyons (Bradford, West, SDP): Since black and white sets are largely in the hands of the poorer sections of the community would he freeze the fee for those sets instead of increasing it?

Mr Whitelaw: I think that the increase in the monochrome set fee would be regarded as very reasonable.

Mr Ian Mikardo (Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, Lab): One of the concessions he has offered today will be warmly welcomed by all the pensioners in the east end of London who have Diners' Club credit cards. (Labour laughter.)

Mr Whitelaw: He enjoys such snide remarks. There are many people, even pensioners, who may wish to pay their fees in this way. It is sensible to provide a variety of ways to pay the licence fee and I do not see why they should be open to snide remarks.

Ashley and Morrison: More subtitled programmes wanted

Hostile reaction to heavier lorries

TRANSPORT

MPs from both sides joined in protests at the announcement by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, that the maximum permitted lorry weights were to be raised to 34 tonnes for four-axled vehicles and 40 tonnes for five-axled vehicles.

Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C) gave advance warning that he would vote against the new regulations when they came before the House.

Mr Howell said: The effect of big lorries on people and communities is a matter of deep concern. The lorry is an offensive element in the environment (some cheers), and it will make the environment progressively worse unless we take decisions now which will change the trend over the coming years.

Our aim is to ensure a more civilized development of freight transport in the future, which will mean a better environment as well as a healthier economy.

Government measures to achieve the objective were in a White Paper published today. These measures are directed to keeping lorries away from the places where people live, through provision of more by-passes; to making the vehicles quieter and cleaner; and, in particular, to keeping their numbers down.

However, to keep costs down, road transport must be efficient and economic. Our present maximum weight limits on lorries place an economic handicap on much of our industry. Our regulations prevent many existing lorries from being loaded to their full technical weight-carrying capacity. This is wasteful. It makes transport costs higher than they need be, which in turn feeds through into prices and makes our exports less competitive.

The Government agreed with the Armitage report's rejection of the heavier axle weights proposed by the European Commission and had announced rejection of a 44 tonnes maximum weight which Armitage had recommended.

All the safeguards suggested by Armitage had been carefully considered. The Government is now convinced (he said) that maximum lorry weights can safely be raised to 34 tonnes for four axled vehicles, and 40 tonnes on five axles.

The proposals outlined in the white paper would apply to Northern Ireland.

As well as bringing economic benefits to industry and ultimately to the consumers, through savings in industry's transport costs of around £150m a year, there will be benefits to the environment.

The heavier vehicles will be no bigger than the biggest vehicles on the roads today. Their higher load capacity will enable industry to meet demands for freight services with fewer vehicles than would otherwise be needed. (Protests).

There will be safeguards in the regulations on the design of the heavier vehicles to protect roads, bridges and underground services.

We cannot afford delay. To do nothing would help neither the environment nor the economy. Freight users, vehicle operators and manufacturers are unable to plan ahead whilst the present uncertainty lasts.

Mr Albert Booth, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, (Barrow-in-Furness, Lab): He will be judged as having reneged on the undertaking of his predecessor.

The lorries that he is proposing will do more damage to roads than the 44-tonner proposed by Armitage. Measured by Armitage's own criteria he is proposing o allow on roads a 38-tonne lorry with a 10.5 drive axle, which is higher than at present on our roads.

Why has he made no proposal to allocate to heavy goods vehicles the higher costs they impose on road building and maintenance which were pointed out by Armitage?

The minor amelioration which the White Paper indicates of a major problem is a fig leaf behind which he cannot hide what is no more than a massive concession to the road freight haulage lobby. Those suffering from the effects of the present heavy lorries will be disappointed and shocked by this announcement.

Mr Howell: I do not accept his interpretation. The proposals in the White Paper are comprehensive and go beyond the Armitage report. The overall effect of these proposals, because there will be up to 10,000 fewer lorries, would be 5 per cent less road damage.

On the higher taxation of lorries that do the most damage, the White Paper makes clear that we have taken the powers to prepare for that and it is now our proposal to go that way, so there is no question of ducking that.

Mr Booth has got the concession to the freight industry totally wrong. There is a major advance here within our grasp for the environment because there will be lorries which are no bigger and greatly reduced in number. There is a benefit to industry in terms of more investment and more jobs.

Mr John Peyton (Yeovil, C): Those who live in, walk in, and push prams in the narrow streets of many of our towns and villages are likely to accord to his proposals a welcome that falls a good deal short of rapturous.

Mr Howell: I did not expect rapture. This is the right move in the right direction towards civilizing the lorry.

Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C): Some of us, and certainly myself, are appalled at his statement. (Cheers.) I do not accept that these lorries will not be bigger, heftier and more dangerous on the roads. I do not accept that the regulations now in existence are sufficient to prevent these lorries going away from the trunk roads and motorways. I shall be in the voting lobby against this measure when it comes up. (Cheers.)

Mr Howell: The lorry loads are not going to be any bigger. They will be the same lorry containers as we see on the roads today.

Mr Edward Leadbitter (Hartlepool, Lab): The House considers the Secretary of State's statement today to be a complete betrayal of the protection of the environment. (Cheers.) The new lorry loads will be a damaging, dangerous intrusion into urban areas and to historic buildings and will not be accepted by the public nor, I hope, by this House.

Mr Howell: Mr Leadbitter exaggerates his case. There are strong feelings on this. If there are fewer of these large and in some cases frightening vehicles around, this is a step in the right direction.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C) asked for an assurance that there would be tougher environmental restraints so that existing lorries would not be allowed to carry the heavier loads unless [illegible] ensure that enforcement is extremely tough. At the same time I would like to see the local authorities use their powers vigorously to ensure we do not have lorries either overloaded illegally or going in places where they are totally unsuited to go.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Environment. Debate on Opposition motion on emergency in prisons and ways to overcome it. Lords (2.30): Debate on effects of Government policies on education, training opportunities and industrial efficiency.

Island airport is to be expanded into a Nato base

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Expansion of the airport at Stornoway of the island of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides into a forward Nato base was approved yesterday by Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland. The decision met with a hostile reception from the Western Isles Council and other groups opposed to the scheme.

The Government said that the base was necessary to support maritime operations in time of war in the Iceland-United Kingdom gap and the eastern Atlantic to counter possible Russian air attacks from the north west.

Strict conditions have been imposed by the Government on the Ministry of Defence for use of the airfield. Exercises will be limited to six weeks a year, and Sunday flying, a contentious issue in the Western Isles, will be prohibited except in emergencies. Night flying will be limited to 20 nights a year.

The Ministry of Defence is to provide money to insulate houses affected by noise. The airport development, which will cost £40m, will include an extension of the runway, new aircraft shelters and improved fuelling facilities.

Objections to the development, raised at a public inquiry included loss of agricultural land, noise disturbance to wildlife, the risk from accident and the inadequacy of water supplies. Local people said that the Gaelic culture and way of life would be eroded.

The objectors included the Western Isles Council, the local authority for the area, and Mr Donald Stewart, Scottish Nationalist MP for the Western Isles, who said yesterday that the people who planned and approved the development differed only in degree from the Russians who had authorized the invasion of Afghanistan.

The Rev Donald Macaulay, Convener of the Western Isles Council, was not surprised by the decision. But he was disappointed that Mr Younger had seen fit to accept that the case which the council had put forward at the public inquiry should be overruled by a case based on the climate of national defence that had never been examined or debated. Mr Macaulay put the level of compensation the area should receive at £10m.

□ There was widespread hostility in the Western Isles to the decision (Our Stornoway Correspondent writes). Mr Angus MacCormack, chairman of the Keep Nato Out Committee, which has been campaigning over the past two years against the proposal, said: "The Secretary of State for Scotland has declared war on the Western Isles. His decision flies in the face of democracy and his much vaunted wish to show humanity to the people of Scotland.

"He is, in effect, thrusting upon the people of Lewis and the Western Isles a living death from constant and pervasive noise. He has chosen to ignore the evidence placed before him and in so doing he has destroyed his credibility as a democratic leader".

Criminal injuries compensation

Ex-PC wants special fund after £129,700 award

By David Nicholson-Lord

A former police constable, who has received the highest award ever made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, spoke last night of his struggle to obtain the money and called for a special fund to be set up for badly injured police officers.

Mr David Pebble, a family man, who was awarded £129,700 for severe injuries he received when he fell from a roof in 1975, described the past seven years as traumatic. He said: "We have had to push and struggle for everything we have had. It has been a hell of a fight."

The former policeman, aged 34, who is paraplegic and confined to a wheelchair, added: "It sounds incredible. You really think you are doing a job for the service of the public and if something goes wrong you should have no problems. But we have had a hell of a lot of problems."

Mr Prebble was impaled on iron spikes after falling from a roof he was searching.

He was paralysed from the chest downwards and, after six months in Stoke Mandeville hospital, was reemployed by the Metropolitan Police as the only non-policeman operator of a computer terminal. He works at Croydon police station and is married with three daughters.

His final award was made on appeal, more than five years after the accident. Initially, he was offered £28,000. He also had to take out a £30,000 bank overdraft, ultimately provided at 1 per cent interest by an understanding bank manager, to buy a bungalow. His local council, he said, told him it could not help with important bathroom alterations because he earned too much.

He described the response of felolw officers, from Sir Robert Mark, the former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, to the men in his division who raised £10,000 for him, as absolutely marvellous. But, he added: "PCs should not have to give half a day's pay or organize dances so that we can set up a new home.

The former officer, who says he misses police work terribly, has already given one important and slightly cynical piece of advice to Police Constable Philip Olds, the London policeman paralysed when shot chasing two robbers last year. That was to hire the best legal brains available.

"I don't blame the compensation board because they have to operate under constraints. But your award is possibly as good as the solicitor you employ to put forward your case", he said.

Mr Prebble said his award had broken new ground because it was based on his need for long-term nursing care.

■ Bus staff in some towns and cities "expose themselves to the risk of violence whenever they insist on being paid by a passenger", the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board said yesterday in its annual report (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

The board's suspicion that bus conductors who fear assault do not press for fares was borne out by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Mr Charles Young, the union's London bus secretary, said: "We would advise them to avoid trouble in that situation." The board suspects "there is a considerable loss of revenue to bus companies".

The board says: "We regard the situation as appalling and it is getting worse. We have no doubt that the only solution is that it should be made clear that such offenders will face immediate custodial sentences."

Mr Young said that there were 600 to 700 attacks on bus staff in London each year which resulted in them taking one or more days off sick.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Report and Accounts (Cmnd 8401. Stationery Office; £4.20).

Alternative financing of NHS

PM's QUESTIONS

A working party was looking at alternative methods of financing the National Health Service, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said when a Labour MP questioned her about a report in *The Guardian* today which he said concerned Government proposals to scrap the NHS as it was known.

There were now 1,000 more doctors and 21,000 more nurses and midwives than under the last Labour Government, she said. Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, stated there were great suspicions about Government approaches towards the health service.

Mr Foot, holding a copy of *The Times*, referred to a reported statement by the Director of the British Museum that if nothing was changed it would have to close in two years.

Mrs Thatcher said museums could look forward to some increase in grant next year. The precise amount would have to await full public expenditure results.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) asked: Has the Prime Minister had time to read the front page of *The Guardian* this morning concerning the Government's proposal to scrap the National Health Service as we know it?

Does she recognize that the health service is the most popular public service that we have and that any threat from her to undermine the basic principles on which it is based would create a revolutionary situation in this country?

Will she therefore give a categorical assurance that not even she would stoop to such skulduggery.

Mrs Thatcher: The principle that adequate health care should be provided for all, regardless of their ability to pay must be the foundation of any arrangements for financing the health service. Some time ago, on July 30, 1981, the then Secretary of State (Mr Patrick Jenkin) announced a working party had been set up to look into different methods of financing the health service. (Interruptions.)

It seems that only the minds of Labour MPs are closed to new ideas which are reasonable, even to look at new ideas.

Mr Foot: Since such great suspicions are bound to be aroused about any approach by this Government to the NHS, can Mrs Thatcher give us an assurance that there will be a debate before any further proceedings by this committee?

A report appeared in the papers this morning following the statement by the Director of the British Museum to a select committee. (Interruptions) I know the barbarians on the Conservative benches are not interested in the British Museum; we on this side of the House certainly hear with great alarm that the Director of the British Museum should be saying that if nothing is changed, they would have to close down in two years.

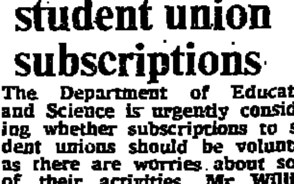
Will Mrs Thatcher give an undertaking that she will intervene today to put a stop to this barbaric nonsense?

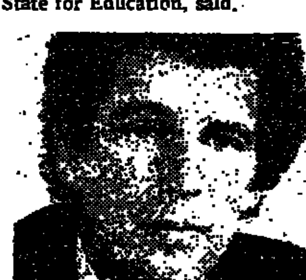
Mrs Thatcher: The full news of the setting up of the working party was announced last July. It is continuing its work. It will identify possible alternatives to financing the health service and then of course this will be looked at to see what the details require for further work.

On museums, I gave a reception for the directors and those on the boards of the museums last evening. The grant in 1981-82 was seven to eight per cent above that of 1980-81. They can look forward to some increase next year.

DES reviewing student union subscriptions

The Department of Education and Science is urgently considering whether subscriptions to student unions should be voluntary as there are worries about some of their activities, Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State for Education, said.





Waldegrave: Difficult precedent to accept

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) had asked the minister to alter the arrangements for the financing of student unions so as to make subscriptions to them voluntary rather than mandatory.

Mr Waldegrave: With the exception of Oxbridge junior common rooms, there are no subscriptions to students' unions which are now financed through recurrent income by their parent institutions.

Mr Winterton: There is a growing movement within the students against compulsory union membership who believe part of Tory philosophy is responsible freedom.

The case of Paul Soden, who was excluded from Manchester Polytechnic because he was not prepared to pay that part of his annual subscription due to the student union, is quite wrong, particularly as he was qualified and eligible for admission to Manchester Polytechnic. The minister should give this case and the whole subject of voluntary membership his urgent attention.

Mr Waldegrave: The Department is indeed giving the matter urgent attention. I suspect at the back of his mind are worries about the political activities of student unions and activities which do not appear to be connected with the original purposes of student unions.

As for cases like Mr Soden and his unwillingness to contribute to the student union that part of the fee he calculated to be necessary, it would be a difficult precedent to accept. Students would then perhaps regard themselves as free not to contribute that part of the fee as they regarded as covering other departments, some of which they do not use.

Over 4,000 in assisted places scheme

EDUCATION

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, repeatedly stated during questions that the cost of educating children under the assisted places scheme was the same as if they were at state schools.

He said that two thirds of the parents sending children to public schools under the scheme were earning less than the average wage.

Mr John Carlisle (Luton, West, C) had asked what was the cost in the present financial year for the education of children under the assisted places scheme and what would be the comparable cost if they were educated in the maintained sector.

Mr Boyson: My department expects to pay grant of about £3.2m in this financial year in respect of the 4,185 pupils admitted to assisted places in September.

The average cost of providing for that number of pupils to attend maintained secondary schools for two terms this year is also estimated to be £3.2m.

Mr Carlisle: The scheme has been an outstanding success, presents real value for money to the taxpayer and has been welcomed by many thousands of parents throughout the land as widening the choice for their children's education.

Mr Boyson: I agree with his comments. One-third of parents have family incomes which means they are paying no fees at all. Another third are below the average wage, so that two-thirds are below the average wage.

The scheme is bringing into excellent schools with good sixth forms the sort of pupils we want from deprived backgrounds. their family income.

Problems with substitute for asbestos

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Society for the Prevention of Asbestosis and Industrial Disease maintained that the pneumoconiosis medical panels were failing to recognize that their methods of diagnosing asbestosis were out of date, the Earl of Gosford said.

The panels relied for determining the level of fibres in lung tissue on the optical microscope which failed to detect the fine white fibres.

Lord Gosford, who was opening debate on the progress made in developing asbestos substitutes and whether the Government was satisfied with the methods of monitoring asbestos that are currently in general use, said Mrs Nancy Tait, secretary of the society had been single-mindedly collecting evidence for a number of years. The nub of that evidence was that the danger of lung and other cancers due to inhalation of asbestos fibres had been under-estimated and unrecognized as being caused by white asbestos, the most widely used variety.

The cases of men, women and children found to be affected by asbestosis was increasing. One of the problems was that post mortems in the past had been conducted only in cases where there had been a lengthy exposure to asbestos, but it had now been found that long exposure was not necessary for the contraction of asbestosis. It now had to be accepted that we were dealing with a lethal substance which could be found in and around many households.

employed in dangerous industries were rapidly becoming better informed by their trade unions and would not easily forgive legislators if there was continued procrastination on this subject.

The change to alternative materials to asbestos was making better progress overseas. In con- ,tart United Kingdom industry Health and Safety Commission to allow the asbestos industry to control the pace at which any change from asbestos was made. Meanwhile workers were still working in levels of asbestos which the advisory committee on asbestos said should not be allowed to continue after December, 1980.

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, for the Opposition, said their major concern must be the eradication of health hazards, whether adequate safety standards were being used, and, where this was not possible, that substitutes were brought in.

They must be concerned that the substitutes themselves did not involve health hazards. At the same time they must be concerned about the report in The Times yesterday on the subject of a delay which, it seemed, had gone on rather longer than necessary.

Lord Lyell, Lord in Waiting, for the Government, said it welcomed the efforts still being made by industry and especially by research institutes to develop substitutes for asbestos but the unique combination of properties which had led to the widespread use of asbestos in general had made it difficult to replace. The Government would advise prudence in substitution.

The optential substitute for asbestos developed at Surrey University and mentioned in The Times ws o manufctured that hd to be developed. This made the product more complicated and more costly to produce. That problem had created a potential difficulty in changing over to thi new material.

The decision of any company whether or not to manufacture a particular product (he continued) is for that company to take, bearing in mind the technical, social, medical and economic factors.

New mental health law to be implemented in 1983

SECOND READING

The Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, which amends the Mental Health Act 1959, was a good Bill and one which the Government intended to make even better if it were practicable, **Lord Elton**, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said when he moved its second reading.

He said the Bill, which gives patients new rights, specified that all but three provisions should be implemented on September 30, 1983. The Government hoped for Royal Assent by next summer.

After that, they would need to consolidate these and other amendments to turn the Act into a form in which it could be easily used. That opportunity might be used, if peers wished, to separate the provisions dealing with the mentally handicapped from those affecting the mentally ill.

Some mentally handicapped people made agreeable friends; some could be violent. If they took the mentally handicapped out of the Act, as some people would wish, a few of these patients would be denied the stabilizing care that they needed. When the Act came in some hundreds of patients would cease to be detained anywhere and some would constitute a considerable threat to the public.

A new special health authority, the Mental Health Act Commission, would be concerned with mentally disordered patients compulsorily detained in hospital under the Act and would visit hospitals and examine records. Its members, including lawyers, doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists and lay people, would be available to patients and staff.

Lord Wallace of Coslany for the Opposition, said he still felt that mental hospitals contained many people who need not be there if adequate facilities for residential and day care were available.

Welcome improvements had been made over the years, but such facilities were still far from adequate and in some cases had been reduced because of financial restraint. If the Mental Health Act Commission did its job the demand for greater facilities of this kind would increase.

The Bill, although welcome, only touched the fringe of the problem of the prevention, treatment and cure of mental illness. Mental handicap, in the accepted sense, was put to one side for the time being.

Lady Robson of Kiddington (L) said there was a cry in society for a final recourse to the courts by patients. Much of this concern would be allayed if a patient applying to the proposed mental health review tribunals could be legally represented.

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Maurice Wood, said that the article in *The Times* today by Brian Rix, secretary general of the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults (Mencap) on the difference between mental handicap and mental illness, had something to say for the future.

Lord Kilmarnock (SDP) said the Bill introduced a new principle into English law and for him triggered off a whole battery of alarm bells. The 1959 Act as it stood conferred no statutory right on a medical practitioner to treat a patient without his consent.

Lord Renton, chairman of Mencap, said the 1959 Act was regarded as progressive, but it was a serious mistake to lump together the mentally handicapped and the mentally ill. This new measure made no change of real substance in the stringent powers affecting the mentally handicapped.

There were cases of mentally handicapped people becoming mentally or physically ill and this was the only time when there was any justification for sending such people to hospital under the compulsion of a court order, or any other kind of persuasion.

Lord Wells-Pestell (Lab) said it was a good Bill but the Government should find ways of acting on Lord Renton's observations.

Lord Campbell of Croy (C) said that much still had to be done in spreading knowledge about mental disability. For example, MPs should refrain from using the word schizophrenia when they were being derogatory about their political opponents.

Lady Kinloss (Ind) said that the confusion caused by the 1959 Act which dealt with mental illness and handicap at the same time still needed to be cleared up.

Lady Faithfull (C) said that to have children permanently brought up in hospital was not worthy of a caring society. These children suffered in silence and were often without emotional relationships so necessary for development of personality.

Lord Auckland (C) said they were putting the cart before the horse. There should be first class staff when often, there was inadequate pay and shortages.

Lady Masham of Ilton (Ind) said when visiting hospitals she had been worried by lack of privacy, the mixing of ages and illnesses, and patients being deprived of personal effects.

Lord Hooson (L) said the most worrying part of the Bill was the proposed scheme for imposing treatment on unwilling or nonconsenting patients which introduced an entirely new principle into law. This was misguided and unbalanced.

Lady Lane-Fox (C) said there was still bias and prejudice which could damage a lot of ex-mental patients. She had spent two nights as a patient in a mental hospital before 1957 with one nurse on duty and 14 disturbed patients. No more shame should be attached to such set-backs and disorders than to any other illness.

Lord Elystan-Morgan (Lab), for the Opposition, said that there was no reason why a child, young person, or older person suffering from mental handicap should be dealt with in any way in law differently from those with blindness, deafness or a stunted limb.

Lord Cullen of Ashbourne, a Lord in Waiting, replying to the debate said there would be further discussions with Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, on the separation of the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped.

The Bill was read a second time.

BARMAID'S EVIDENCE QUERIED

A barmaid who gave vital prosecution evidence during the trial at Stafford of four men accused of the murder of a newsboy, Carl Bridgewater, was a wholly unreliable witness, counsel claimed in the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

Mr Douglas Draycott, QC, told the court that Mrs Helen Johnston had given evidence of quite damning observations which she said had passed between the men in the Dog and Partridge public house, Birmingham, after the shooting of Carl, aged 13, at Yew Tree Farm, Wordsley, West Midlands, in 1979.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Goff, and Mr Justice Taylor are hearing applications by three of the men for leave to challenge their convictions of murder and aggravated burglary.

James Edward Robinson, aged 47, of Wolston Croft, Weoley Castle, Birmingham, was jailed for life.

Vincent James Hickey, aged 27, of Lower Beeches Road, Northfields, Birmingham, was also jailed for life.

His brother Michael, now 19, of Laburnum Trees, Hollywood, Birmingham, was ordered to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure.

The fourth, Patrick Molloy, aged 51, who was given a 12-year sentence for manslaughter, died in prison last June.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

OXFORD'S FORESTRY FELLED

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Oxford dons approved by 114 votes to 40 yesterday a proposal, recommended by the University Grants Committee, to cease all undergraduate teaching in the university's honours school of agriculture and forestry.

However, they rejected by 47 votes to 31 another cost-saving proposal to abolish extra payments for academic staff involved in marking examination papers or in supervising graduate students. Oxford expects to lose 8 per cent of its income by 1983-84.

The general board of faculties at Cambridge is planning to put a similar proposal on examining and supervising payments to Cambridge dons. It will also ask dons to approve proposals to stop payments for substitute teaching while academics are on sabbatical leave, and to cease grants from the university's travelling expenses fund.

Estimates for spending by Cambridge this year, which involve making virtually no cuts in services by dint of drawing more than £400,000 from the university's reserves, were approved in a ballot of dons.

At Bristol, counting was taking place of a ballot of dons to decide whether the university should close its school of architecture, faculty of education, and departments of Russian, Italian, and history of art.

هكذا من الأصل

Bridges to suffer most from new 40-tonne lorries

By Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent

After years of nervous hesitation, the Government yesterday finally announced details of its proposal to raise the maximum lorry weight from 32.5 to 40 tonnes. The news was greeted with fury and sadness by environmentalists, and with pleasure and relief by industry.

But the White Paper says that, with other measures to reduce noise and by-pass towns, the effect will be to improve the environment because there will be fewer heavy lorries (69,000 over 32 tonnes instead of 79,000 if no change were made) and to improve the economy by saving about £150m a year.

Because the extra weight will be spread on five axles instead of four, road damage will be reduced 5 per cent, the paper adds.

There is one important exception to that, however: long-span bridges. On those, the White Paper concedes, there could be a "significantly greater loading effect" in the case of a build-up of heavy traffic, including heavy lorries. Work is already in hand to ensure that the Severn Bridge can be used safely by 40-tonners. Similar work will be carried out on long-span structures throughout the trunk road system, the paper says.

Other bridge owners will need to consider if weight restrictions are needed. The effect on bridges generally however is said not to be significant.

Four new by-pass schemes, around Quorn and Mountsorrel in Leicestershire, Beckington in Somerset, Iwade in Kent, and Winchelsea in East Sussex, are added to the programme forthwith. Seven more, Newport, (Shropshire), Wisbech and West Walton, Narborough, Kelsall, Brockworth and Bridport, will get higher priority.

More than half of England's historic towns already have by-passes. So have 215 of the 275 towns a trunk roads with more than 10,000 in population.

By-passes will generally receive a higher priority in line with the recommendations of the Armitage committee.

But another Armitage recommendation, that "section 8 grants", to encourage the transfer of traffic from road to rail be increased, is studiuosly avoided.

The grants will be continued, the White Paper says, and to help the railways to play their full role the government will aim to ensure that the framework of regulation and taxation puts road and rail on an equal footing.

A start has been made, it notes, in the Transport Act, 1981, basing excise duty on gross weight.

Another Armitage recommendation, for "lorry action areas" meriting special environmental measures where heavy lorry nuisance is particularly bad, is merely accepted as well worth studying. Local authorities and others will be invited to join the study.

Noise levels of heavy lorries will be progressively reduced so that by 1990 the perceived noise coming from new lorries on the road will be half this years level, and no louder than a modern new car, the paper promises.

Development of a new quiet heavy lorry for the 1990's will be pressed ahead after the successful development of a prototype which, however, has an 8 per cent cost penalty plus a payload penalty.

There will be no general increase in size with the rise in weights, although there could be an increase in the number of drawbar trailer combinations. The 40-tonner will be a half a metre longer than the 32-tonner, mainly because it has a more spacious cab.

The paper accepts that "the effect of big lorries on people and the communities through which they pass is now a matter of grave public concern, and in many towns and villages where there is no by-pass the effects are intolerable.

"The Government is determined to tackle those environmental and social problems vigorously, but at the same time its approach will be essentially practical, bearing in mind the needs of industry in a period of economic revival."

Heavy freight, such as petrol, milk, machinery, and bricks, would be the main area to benefit. ICI stands to gain £16m a year, or 12 per cent of its transport costs.

Lorries, People, and the Environment (Department of Transport, House of Commons Paper 8439; Stationery Office, £1.50).

PROPOSALS FOR HEAVY ARTICULATED VEHICLES

Existing maximum weight 32.52 tonnes
15 metres
5.35 10.17 8.5 8.5

Proposed maximum weight 40 tonnes
15.5 metres
6 8 8 9 9

BR sets a record in passenger safety

The number of deaths in the working of British Rail last year was the lowest since records started nearly a century ago, the Department of Transport said in its annual railway accident report, published today. It shows that no passenger was killed in a railway accident.

The total numbers of deaths, at 69, included railwaymen killed at work and other people who died through misadventure or suicide.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ian McNaughton, chief inspecting officer of railways, reported that the falling trend had been achieved at a time when the life of railway equipment had had to be extended because of economic considerations.

That bad added to the difficulties of those whose task it was to maintain and operate the railways in safety.

But Mr Malcolm Southgate, British Rail's chief operations manager, issued a warning that while the railways would continue to give priority to investment in safety, "lack of money may inhibit the introduction of facilities that will further improve safety. Where investment is not available, speed restrictions will be imposed rather than allow safety standards to fall."

The report shows that for the first time, the number of reportable train accidents fell below 1,000 to 930.

Miss Jeanetta Thomas, who is 112 today. Believed to be the oldest person in Britain, she lives in a home for the elderly at Cowbridge, South Glamorgan, where she will celebrate quietly with friends.

MP's Bill aimed at unfit meat racket

By Robin Young, Consumer Affairs Correspondent

To the excitement of the consumer lobby, which has seen little relevant legislation passed under the present Government, three MPs highly placed in the ballot for private members' Bills have espoused proposals for important reforms of consumer law.

The Bills the MPs will present were introduced yesterday at a press conference organized jointly by the National Consumer Council and the Consumers' Association.

Mr Frederick Willey, Labour MP for Sunderland North, who has top place, will introduce a Supply of Goods and Services Bill, giving people who hire items, buy them in part exchange, or have them supplied as part of a service the same protection as cash shoppers.

His Bill would also define basic rights for consumers when they obtain a service: the work to be performed with reasonable skill and care, within reasonable time and at a reasonable cost where no price has been agreed.

Mr Willey said yesterday: "This will not give consumers a host of new rights. It is an attempt to make sense out of nonsense."

Mr Norman Atkinson, Labour MP for Haringey, Tottenham, has second place. His Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill follows court cases that have revealed wide-scale racketeering in unfit meat channelled into the food processing industry for human consumption.

Mr Atkinson's Bill would enable Food and Drugs Act offences to be heard in the Crown Court, instead of only in magistrates' courts as at present. The maximum fine would be raised from £100 to £1,000 on summary conviction, or an unlimited amount on indictment, with the further possibility of up to two years' imprisonment.

Mr Atkinson said: "The bill would put meat racketeering into the serious crime league. At present no one can safely say they have not eaten unfit or contaminated meat. I have been astonished by the evidence of how veterinary throw-outs and even cancerous carcasses find their way into the food trade."

Spokesmen for the Institution of Environmental Health Officers and the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, who also support the Bill, said that at present the penalties for describing meat wrongly were heavier than those for selling meat that was unfit and dangerous to health.

The Bill would also extend the time limits for bringing a prosecution from six months to three years.

Mr Atkinson said his Bill went far beyond anything the Government had proposed, but he thought he could count on its support.

The third Bill, to be introduced by Mr Gwilym Roberts, Labour MP for Cannock, would extend the Trade Descriptions Act to estate agents, tour operators, and all businesses providing services.

New hope of clearing Gruinard of anthrax

The Ministry of Defence is reviewing ways of ridding Gruinard Island, the site of Second World War germ warfare tests, of lethal spores of anthrax. The study will be conducted by scientists at the Porton Down research centre near Salisbury, Wiltshire.

An investigation in 1971 suggested three methods, but they were rejected as too expensive. The costs were estimated at between £3m and £15m at 1971 prices.

Anthrax-infected soil was removed from — the island in October by a group of alleged microbiologists, calling themselves "Dark Harvest".

Stolen samples were planted inside the Porton Down perimeter fence, and later at Blackpool, near the venue of the Conservative Party conference.

A spokesman for the ministry, said yesterday: "Our study group is intensively reviewing ways of decontaminating Gruinard Island. Various methods are being studied, and the cost involved."

A survey in 1979 of the one-and-a-half-mile-long island, near Ullapool, Wester Ross, showed that it was still heavily contaminated with anthrax.

The three methods of "cleaning" the island suggested in 1971 were: Stripping of the toplayer of soil and dumping it in the Atlantic; neutralizing the spores with steam pressure hoses or chemicals; or bombardment by radiation.

Road safety improvements

Drop in number of road deaths may continue

By Our Transport Correspondent

After announcing the lowest road casualty figures for 22 years, the Department of Transport is hoping for a further drop in deaths and serious injuries as a result of new safety legislation due next year.

Last year, 6,010 people were killed on the roads, the fewest since 1958 when the total was 5,970. Over the same period, the volume of traffic rose threefold.

Provisional figures for the first quarter of this year show a further drop of 8 per cent in fatalities and a 6 per cent fall in the number of those seriously injured.

The most important effect on casualties over the next few years could come with the introduction of the compulsory wearing of seat belts for car drivers and front seat passengers. That is expected to become law by next summer. The Government has estimated that if the "wearing rate" went up from the present 32 per cent to 100 per cent, 1,000 lives and 10,000 serious injuries could be saved in a year. A "wearing rate" of 75 per cent would save 650 lives.

The Department of Transport is also hoping to reverse the upward trend in motor cycle casualties, which is in sharp contrast to the general picture. All casualties have fallen by 10 per cent over the past decade, but motor cycle deaths have risen by 50 per cent.

In an attempt to reduce motor cycle casualties, the Government is introducing a tougher, two-part, driving test, limiting the size of machine that a learner may drive and restricting the time period on provisional licences.

Next year, too, the drink-driving laws will be tightened and the Government expects that will have a deterrent effect on potential violators. Among the changes will be the use of electronic breath testing machines at police stations in place of blood or urine samples.

Britain already has one of the best road casualty records in Europe. Only Norway and Sweden have proportionately fewer road deaths.

The worst year for road causualties in Britain was 1941, during the wartime blackout, when 9,169 people were killed. The highest figure in peacetime was 7,985 deaths in 1966.

Boys expelled in drugs inquiry

Two senior boys at Bedford School, Bedfordshire, have been expelled for selling drugs to other pupils. Both were questioned by drug squad officers investigating cannabis peddling.

Since the inquiry the boys have been sent back to their homes in Germany. A third boy was expelled for possessing the drug, and a fourth was expelled for unsatisfactory behaviour, including possessing smoking equipment.

Bedford School, where boarders pay £2,682 a year, said the two boys sent to Germany had been expelled for obtaining and distributing cannabis.

Policemen die in car crash

Three policemen were killed in a car crash after celebrating the birth of the baby of one of them.

Four constables, all off-duty, left a public house on Monday night, with the father, Police Constable Ian Foulger, aged 26, driving.

After dropping off one of the constables, the car collided with a a stationary breakdown vehicle on the Bromham to Beford road in Bedfordshire.

The dead men were Police Constable Foulger, of Mowbray Close, Bedford, Ian Purdie, aged 23, of Arundel Drive, Bedford, and Kevin Brice, aged 26, of Goldington Green, Bedford. The fourth man was seriously injured.

Geneva delegates settle down to hard bargaining

From Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent, Geneva, Dec 1

Soviet and American delegations to the talks about limiting nuclear weapons in Europe held their first negotiating session here today, in a room with a breathtaking view and a clock that was five minutes fast.

It lasted two hours and 40 minutes and will be followed by another on Friday. Twice-weekly meetings alternating between the Soviet and American headquarters on Tuesdays and Fridays will become the pattern for the talks, with less formal discussions in between.

If the world's two most powerful nations ever resolve to kiss and make up, it would surely have to be here in the eighth floor American conference room overlooking Lake Geneva, glistening in the winter sunshine, and beyond that the French Alps with Mont Blanc on the horizon.

One potential source of discord is that the Amercans have taken the best seats facing the windows and the balcony, while the Russians once more have to turn their backs upon the outside world and gaze upon a row of rather indifferent modern prints on the wall.

"We always sit this side at arms control talks", a sweating public relations official said. "No, we didn't toss for it—and no, we don't change round at halftime. We just always sit this side."

The room is at the offices of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and was used during the last series of Salt talks. It is large and functional, with a 30ft polished wooden table which today was the focal point of most press interest.

Apart from the view, the facilities were austere—just a pristine pad of notepaper before each place, two sharpened pencils apiece with built-in India rubbers and trays of water jugs and glasses.

The delegations arrived a minute late, led by Mr Paul Nitze for the Americans and Mr Yuli Kvitsinsky for the Russians, both of whom sat facing each other in the centre of the table, in high-backed leather revolving chairs. Each side had nine other members and advisers, in low-backed matching chairs who sat nodding at each other with polite interest, like visiting Rotarians.

"Will you please move back", bellowed an official as the television lights flared. Another hastily cleaned Mr Kvitsinsky's ashtray in which someone had stubbed out a couple of king-size filter-tips.

Mr Nitze, who looked happier on his home ground, invited his duelling partner to shake hands for the cameras. "Once more?" beamed Mr Kvitsinsky, and they shook hands for the next few minutes.

"MBFR tie", he remarked cheerfully across the table, a reference to the tie designed for the many delegates who have attended the Vienna talks on Mutual Balanced Force Reductions in Europe since they opened eight years ago. As nobody was actually wearing an MBFR tie, this baffled everyone. Mr Kvitsinsky's own tie was navy blue with white polka dots. "I have a SALT 1 tie at home", volunteered Mr Nitze.

Then, the banalities over, they politely ejected the media and got down to the business of the arms negotiations. These have now been officially if *unilaterally rechristened* by Nato the Intermediate-range Nucear Forces (INF) Talks. The "intermediate" replaces "theatre" in deference to those countries who did not want reminding that in wartime they would not only be in the European theatre, but would be sitting somewhere in the front stalls.

☐ Oslo: Dr Joseph Luns, Nato's Secretary-General, has given the Geneva talks "a fair chance of reaching an agreement".

At a press conference today after completing two days of talks with Norwegian Government officials and officers at Nato's Northern Europe Headquarters (Afnorth) here, Dr Luns said: "I'm not pessimistic. There is a fair chance that some agreement might be reached, concluded and signed. Although that agreement might not be what we all hoped for, I would put to you that an agreement is better than no agreement."—AP.

Sabotage cuts oil output in Angola

By Our Foreign Staff

Saboteurs have blown up part of an Angolan oil refinery and the damage will cause severe shortages of refined oil.

A spokesman for Petrofina, the Belgian oil company which runs the Petrangol plant near Luanda, said that it could be out of operation for two months.

Unita, the anti-Government guerrilla movement, which *operates in south-eastern* Angola with South African support, claimed responsibility for the attack on Monday, which was carried out with Soviet rocket-propelled grenades. The resulting fire was brought under control yesterday.

The claim was made by Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, in New York yesterday.

Dr Savimbi said an all-out offensive could be launched once Namibia gained indepen*dence and would demonstrate* that his forces did not depend on South Africa's presence in the territory.

He also said in an interview with Reuters that Unita had received "signals" of a willingness to negotiate from factions of the ruling MPLA party in Angola.

The attack was a demonstration of Unita strength despite the executions of 16 of its leaders in August, 1980. "If there are more executions, we promise we are going to *strike again", he said. Further* attacks would be made "every time we see any political or military value in it".

He said he was receiving reports of mass arrests in Luanda and was watching for any executions.

The Angolan Government claimed the attack was the work of South Africa using a group of white mercenaries.

The government press agency said journalists in Luanda were shown the body of a white man who was said *to have been one of two white* mercenaries killed in the attack. Lieutenant-Colonel Pedro Van Dunem, the Angolan Oil and Energy Minister, said the attackers may have come by submarine. The South African Government swiftly denied the allegations.

The minister confirmed that the area where the finished oil products are stored had been badly damaged and added that the whole refining plant which had a capacity of 33,000 barrels a day had been closed down.

A government statement yesterday said the saboteurs were trying to cut off oil supplies to Angolan troops fighting the South African Army in the south of the country, and drew attention to the strategic implications of a fuel shortage in a country where the Angolan Army is involved in a costly war.

The Angolan Government says its troops have never been able to regain control of the large areas of the southern border provinces seized by the South African Army during last August's incursion.

According to a separate oil ministry communiqué, the refinery attack caused a rush on Luanda's petrol pumps; but it promised that refined products would be imported to prevent shortages.

Strikers' shopping: students staging a sit-in strike in the firemen's training college in Warsaw are handing money to a passer-by to buy food for them.

Riot police blockade Warsaw college

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Dec 1

About 1,000 Polish riot police moved into position around the country's main fireman's academy last night in an attempt to put pressure on students occupying the building.

The 350 students, all training to be fire department officers, are calling for the demilitarization of the college. Their aim is to ensure that the college falls under a new draft Bill guaranteeing democratic rights for all civilian academic institutes.

At present, the firemen's academy is run by the Interior Ministry but has strong military elements in its staffing and would probably not benefit from the draft Bill to be considered by the Polish Parliament in the next few days.

The Communist Party leadership has taken the sit-in protest extremely seriously, seeing it as a direct challenge. The protest follows similar sit-ins and occupations in about 70 institutions throughout the country, most of which are demanding more democratic elections for senior staff.

The police have cordoned off the academy for the past three days but have stepped up their presence today after the apparent failure of talks between the student body and senior officials. General Stanislaw Zaczkowski, the deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, and Mr Tomasz Ostrowski, Commander-in-Chief of the Fire Department, have both *tried to* open *talks* with the students.

Sources in Solidarity, the independent trade union movement, which is backing the protest, said that the authorities did not appear to be willing to concede significant ground.

The Interior Ministry, in an attempt to put further pressure on the students, has announced the dissolution of the academy. At the same time, General Mieczyslaw Kiszczak, the Interior Minister, has *promised* that *students* who promise to respect the regulations will be allowed to continue their studies.

There was still no indication last night whether the riot police would actually move into the building or indeed what the authorities hope to achieve by blockading the building.

☐ Party campaign: The Communist Party's leadership has launched an all-out propaganda campaign against attempts to oust party officials from factories.

The party clearly fears that the factory committees, one of its main power bases, are being undermined by Solidarity. In swift succession, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the party leader, and Prime Minister Mr Mieczylaw Rakowski, a Deputy Prime Minister, and the 200-strong Central Committee have all bitterly condemned this assault on party influence.

The final communiqué of the Central Committee, which met in plenary session at the weekend, put the party view with exceptional toughness.

"A campaign has started against committees and members of the Polish United Workers' Party", it said. "*Many units* of *Solidarity*, carrying out political conceptions of illegal anti-socialist organizations, exert pressure on activists of works' committees as well as attempt to oust the party from works' plants. A firm end must be put to this."

Party officials say that referendums have been held to elect factory committees in 21 out of 49 regions in Poland, though they have not disclosed the results.

In Solidarity's view, the aim is not so much to oust the party from its controlling role in factories as to create shopfloor democracy by opening all works committee positions to free elections.

But, inevitably, this has led to the ousting of many party officials, reflecting a high degree of resentment about the committees whose role is essentially to do little more than urge higher productivity and set ideological guidelines. Some of the sharpest accusations of party *malpractice* and corruption have been made against such committee members.

The party is seriously worried about losing this foothold in the factories for three main reasons. The committees have, to some extent, been able to compete against Solidarity, organizing the now rather poorly attended party meetings.

The committees are also expected to play an important role when the Polish economy is eventually decentralized and the workers are given *an in*stitutionalized voice in the running of enterprises. Party control at that stage will be important.

Finally, the party is very anxious about the large number of defections from its ranks—in all 400,000 have left or been expelled from the party in the last six months.

Factories play an important role in Polish life—much food distribution, for example, is centred on the factories—and the national leadership thus *feels it is essential that the* party's presence should be felt at this level. Only then, according to a senior party activist will the party regain some of its lost credibility.

Syria attacks Habib right to mediate

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, Dec 1

The Middle East peace mission of Mr Philip Habib, the United States mediator, appeared to run into serious trouble tonight when Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, told him that the United States could no longer mediate in the region because its new strategic agreement with Israel made America "a direct party to the conflict".

There was no suggestion that Mr Khaddam intended to break off the talks which President Reagan's special Middle East envoy began in Damascus today, but the Syrians clearly intend to make any bargaining over their Sam6 missiles in Lebanon as difficult as possible.

The United States signed its defence pact with Israel yesterday but insisted that it was not directed against any other states in the area. The Syrians took a differenct view and are using the pact to embarrass Mr Habib.

Mr Khaddam told him: "You have signed an agreement of strategic alliance with Israel, so the United States no longer has the right to undertake any mediation or play the role of arbitrator in the Arab-Israeli conflict because you have become a direct party to the conflict".

Syria has regarded America as Israel's ally for more than a quarter of a century but the timing of the new Israeli-American pact could scarcely have come at a worse time for the ubiquitous but reticent Mr Habib.

Ever since the Israelis shot down two helicopters over Lebanon last spring, provoking Syria to install anti-aircraft missiles in the Bekaa valley, the American diplomat—whose father was Lebanese—has paid repeated visits to the Middle East in an attempt to prevent a conflict between Syria and Israel.

In fact, the Syrians are as anxious to hear what Mr Habib has to tell them as they are keen to inform him of their own suspicions over America's relations with Israel. Mr Habib has been holding talks in Beirut with Mr Beshir Gemayel, the Lebanese Phalangist leader whose agreement to the status quo in Lebanon is essential if further conflicts between Syrian troops and Christian militias in Beirut is to be prevented.

If Mr Habib can convince the Syrians that they have no cause to fear a further struggle with the Phalange, then Syria can reduce the number of divisions it keeps in Lebanon and —conceivably—withdraw some of its *anti aircraft missiles. But* in the aftermath of the Arab summit in Fez, which President Assad of Syria resolutely refused to attend, Syria is in no mood to display any moderation in its dealings with the Americans or in its attitude to Israel.

Mr Khaddam told Mr Habib that "nothing has changed in the area except that Israel is becoming more aggressive in its actions and in its threats". The implication was that Mr Habib should produce some evidence that the United States can control Israeli actions in Lebanon and prevent further conflict in the south of Lebanon. It is this haphazard battlefield—where Palestinian guerrillas and Israeli-supplied Christian militias have maintained a doubtful ceasefire since the summer —that now most concerns the Syrians. They fear that any new direct conflict between Israelis and Palestinians will draw them into a war with Israel.

Beirut radio reported today that one man had died when his house was blown up in southern Lebanon by armed men, apparently members of the Christian militia. The house, in the village of Toufine, in the area controlled by the Nigerian battalion of the United Nations force, was destroyed in the explosion. A United Nations spokesman denied a report that Israeli troops were involved in the incident.

Standstill at Madrid security

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Dec 1

Mr Leonid Ilyichov, the head of the Soviet delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, *said here today that American* accusations of Government sponsored anti-semitism in the Soviet Union are "dirty, repulsive, immoral lies" which "blacken all that is noble" in his country. Negotiations are now virtually at a standstill.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief of the United States delegation, referred to the "ugly phenomenon" of anti-semitic activities and called them "a particularly pernicious aspect of Soviet repression".

Mr Kampelman reminded representatives of the 35 nations at the conference that Dr Andrei Sakharov, a distinguished advocate of human rights in the Soviet Union, began a hunger strike along with his wife nine days ago in the city of Gorky, where they are living in internal exile.

Mr Ilyichov expressed surprise that the United States diplomat should repeatedly "defend people who have lost their honour and are guilty of treason and other related crimes". He chided his American counterpart for not talking about Eastern European proposals for a disarmament conference.

Mr Kampelman admitted today that negotiations on sections of the Helsinki accords being dealt with by various committees, "have come pretty much to a standstill."

Peace protest echoed in the Soviet block

From David Blow, Vienna, Dec 1

The West European peace movement is beginning to be echoed faintly in the Soviet block. The main source is the Lutheran Church of East Germany.

Last month, at its autumn assembly, it supported a call for a pacifist alternative to military service, suggesting work in hospitals, old people's homes and other institutions.

In Hungary a number of Roman Catholic priests have recently been suspended for preaching in support of conscientious objection to military service.

The instigators of the pacifist movement in East Germany's Lutheran Church *seem* to have been mainly young activists, but the movement has rapidly gained widespread support. By the time the assembly met last month the regional synods of the church had received about 4,000 petitions from local church communities urging them to come out in favour of the "social peace service", as it is called.

The Lutheran Church has also been openly critical of what it regards as the increasing militarization of East German society, citing in particular the paramilitary training of youth, weapons instruction in schools and the recent extensive civil defence exercises.

At last month's assembly the synod of Saxony reflected a view widely held in the church when it said that this was not conducive to true peace and security because on the one hand it created anxiety and on the other it accustomed people to the possibility of war.

The East German authorities have rejected the call for a pacifist alternative to military service as "hostile to peace, Socialism and the constitution", but they are in an awkward position in view of the barrage of propaganda they have maintained against militarist tendencies in the West.

The president of the Lutheran church in the city of Dessau said: "Young people are tired of having to tell themselves that a weapon in the hands of the workers serves the cause of peace, but in the hands of the imperialists serves the cause of war."

Attempts to exploit the West European peace movement have in some cases rebounded. At a recent conference of the Czech Communist Party a delegate called for closer contacts with the peace movement, which he described as "clearly anti-American". But recently the Voice of the German Democratic Republic radio station tried to explain why there is no need for a similar peace movement in East Germany.

The answer, that the East German state and its citizens were united in opposing the arms race was predictable, but perhaps not entirely convincing.

Nuclear controls questioned

From Nicholas Hirst
Washington, Dec 1

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the controlling body for the United States industry, is concerned that international safeguards to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons may in some cases be too weak

In its first official expression of dissatisfaction with the way the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors the peaceful use of atomic power, the commission doubts whether inspections in some plants would show that material was being diverted to weapons

Neither is it confident that any diversion of material would be discovered "in timely fashion"—the Commission believes it would be possible for a country with certain nuclear plants to be building a bomb and the IAEA not to know.

The concerns are expressed in a letter to several congressional committees from Mr Nunzio Palladino, chairman of the commission.

The installation that most worries the NRC is a reactor, developed in Canada, and which has been exported to several Third World countries.

Champagne firm fined by EEC

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Dec 1

What began as an attempt to protect Britons from the worst effects of the champagne shortage has ended with one of France's manufacturers having to pay a £616,000 fine to the European Commission.

The Commission announced today that it had imposed the fine on Moët-Hennessy of Paris because its British subidiary Moët-et-Chandon (London) Ltd had made the sale of its champagne in Britain conditional on its not being resold abroad.

A director of Moët in London said that it had included the condition in its terms of sale at the beginning of 1980 to try to ensure that the limited allocation of champagne destined for Britain actually reached the British consumer. "After three disastrously small harvests in Champagne in the past four years, there is a chronic shortage of champagne and we have only a strict annual allocation of supplies", he said today.

The Commission said today that the clause, which was deleted six weeks ago, was a serious infringement of the EEC treaty which forbids barriers to the free movement of goods inside the community.

Keith Waldegrave

Dr Morales: Junta will welcome foreign observers

El Salvador invites Britain to monitor elections

By Denis Taylor

A member of the ruling junta in El Salvador said in London yesterday that he had invited the British Government to send observers to monitor the transition to democracy planned by his Government.

Dr José Antonio Morales Ehrlich said that elections to *choose a constituent assembly* would be held on March 21 next year, and the junta headed by President José Napoleon Duarte was ready to welcome maximum international observation

Dr Morales was talking to journalists after a meeting lasting 35 minutes with Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office. Dr Morales has visited The Netherlands, Belgium and West Germany and is going on to Italy and Spain.

Although Dr Morales suggested that special significance should not be attached to this, Paris is a noteworthy omission

The first major diplomatic initiative taken by the Mitterrand Government was a joint statement with Mexico issued three months ago. This recognized the Salvadorean left, including guerrilla forces, as a representative political grouping opposed to the American-backed junta.

When it was put to him that even the United States Congress, with its Republican majority had shown concern about El Salvador's record on human rights, Dr Morales said that the situation was improving daily.

He denied flatly that Salvadorean troops had ever attacked Salvadorean refugees in camps across the border in Honduras.

☐ Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American delegate to the United Nations, last night sought to defend the government of President Duarte and incriminate the entire front of revolutionary insurgents who are his rivals (our New York correspondent writes).

Her intervention was prompted by a draft resolution at the committee level of the United Nations General Assembly which calls upon the Salvador government to open pre-election negotiations with the leftist front in order "to establish an atmosphere free from intimidation and terror."

Labour Party begins talks to withdraw from Europe

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Dec 1

The British Labour Party has sent a fact-finding team on a two-day mission to the European Commission to prepare the negotiations for Britain's withdrawal from Europe.

Dame Judith Hart, the team leader, said the talks had been very friendly and helpful and had enabled the party to pinpoint the issues which needed clarifying. These were essentially on trade policy and on the legal implications

The trade policy section appeared to be the one in most need of pinpointing. The delegation were stumped for an answer when asked about compensation for which Britain would be due for breaking any General Agreement Tariffs and Trade agreements. "An assumption of heavy compensation clauses is creating a hypothesis which may never come about", said Mr Geoffrey Bish, the party's head of research said.

Dame Judith said that the talks had shown there would be no problems about negotiating Britain's way out of Europe that could not be surmounted by negotiations. The party had thought that these might take a year, but after the visit to the Commission they felt that 18 months might be a more realistic target.

The team left the Commission with "a clearer understanding than before of the essential relationship between our economic strategy and the essential need for withdrawal", Dame Judith said.

That strategy was a considerable injection of money into the economy to bring about reflation.

Israeli opposition angered by strategic US links

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Dec 1

Israel's right-wing Government faces four motions of no confidence tomorrow in the Knesset, tabled by opposition parties angry at the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation with the United States, which was signed in Washington last night.

The parliamentary motions have been tabled by parties ranging from the Rakah communists on the far left to the small Tehiya party on the extreme right. It was announced tonight that four ministers are being flown home from abroad to help the Government defend its slender two seat majority, which most political observers expect to survive the final vote.

Many politicians in Israel feel that the memorandum was not given sufficient consideration before being signed. Mr Abba Eban, the Labour foreign affairs spokesman, will attack the global implications of the document, which he claims is the first which the Americans have persuaded another party to sign which specifically mentions the Soviet Union by name. He will argue that this undermines the delicate complex of foreign relations built up by Israel over the years.

In a joint press statement accompanying the memorandum Israel and America said it would "enable the two countries to act cooperatively, to provide each other with military assistance to cope with threats to the security of the *entire region caused by the* USSR or Soviet-controlled forces introduced from outside the region into the region".

Diplomatic observers see the document as bringing Israel more directly into the superpower conflict in the Middle East, and recalled that a similar strategic cooperation agreement was signed recently between Syria and the Soviet Union.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, a former Labour Prime Minister, gave a warning that the agreement could force Israeli troops to take up arms for causes which were not strictly Israel's.

Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister, who signed the memorandum, said that a secret annexe would be appended. That would show that it was a document with important economic and political consequences.

☐ Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, was rushed to a Tel Aviv hopsital complaining of heart trouble today, but later was allowed home.—AFP.

Dispute at UN over flag of PLO

From Our Correspondent
New York, Dec 1

The unauthorized display of a Palestinian flag in a lobby at the United Nations headquarters here has caused a diplomatic furore with both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization accusing the United Nations of taking sides.

A spokesman for the United Nations said today that a member of the department of public information had put up the flag and a 1947 map of Palestine as a backdrop for a number of television interviews being conducted with Arab delegates on the occasion of the UN's annual day of solidarity with Palestinians observed yesterday.

After a strong private protest made by Israel a number of security guards attempted to remove the display in the face of a defiant Mr Zehdi Terzi, the PLO representative

The two-hour ordeal which at one point saw the involvement of the Secretary General, Dr Kurt Waldheim, two undersecretary generals and the chief of security, ended when a compromise was reached allowing the display to be moved inside the chamber. But the incident did not end without a flurry of protests

Under United Nations regulations, only the flags of member states can be shown inside or around the headquarters.

The European Community yesterday used the United Nations day of solidarity with the Palestinian people to reiterate the principles of the Venice declaration in a statement which was not expected to help ease tensions between the Europeans and Israel.

The timing of the press statement, issued by Britain as president of the Council of Ministers, was significant because of the recent controversy over a European role in the Sinai peacekeeping force

France wants to breathe new life into WEU

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Dec 1

A French Minister of State in the Defence Ministry today indicated that France wants to breathe new life into the Western European Union, particularly in the field of joint defence.

"It is not illogical to believe that one day or the other, it will be necessary to give more substance to the work of the WEU", M Georges Lemoine suggested cautiously at the WEU Assembly now meeting in Paris.

He suggested that the assembly—consisting of representatives from Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands—should study two questions of immediate interest to European security: the nature and origin of pacifist movements in Western Europe; and the place of Europe in the nuclear balance between the superpowers.

The 28 permanent officials of the WEU's standing armaments committee could provide the necessary technical inforation, M Lemoine said, and nothing in the WEU treaty stood in the way of the Council of Ministers authorizing this.

His suggestions might seem timid, the minister said, but they were a start.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

The Belgians try again

Brussels. — Mr Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb accepted the difficult task of trying to form a new Belgian government (Ian Murray writes). In chosing him as *formateur*, King Baudouin obviously decided that only by taking into account the strong left-wing element in French-speaking Wallonia might it be possible to find a compromise coalition

Mr Nothomb, the caretaker Foreign Minister, was largely responsible for the collapse of the first attempt to form a government under Mr Willy de Clercq, the Flemish Liberal leader.

Iran sues US

Tehran.—Iran has filed a 512,000m (£631m) claim against the United States for undelivered arms bought by the late Shah, according to Mr Hassan Nurbakhsh, Governor of the Iranian Central Bank.

Rescuers drown

Copenhagen.—Six lifeboatmen were drowned off north-west Jutland when their boat capsized in rough seas as they went to rescue three men from a shipwrecked Danish fishing boat. The three fishermen were reported missing.

Plea for Sakharov

Washington.—A human rights committee yesterday asked the International Red Cross to check on the health of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident Soviet scientist who is believed to be on hunger strike in the city of Gorkiy.

Böll wins damages

Karlsruhe.—Heinrich Böll, the West German Nobel Prize-winning author, was yesterday awarded 40,000 marks (£9,300) damages against a broadcaster who, seven years ago, said he bore intellectual responsibility for terrorist crimes.

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Clark visit may mean closer US interest in Ulster

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington Dec 1

The visit to London and Dublin this week by Mr William Clark, the deputy Secretary of State, is seen clear evidence of the greater interest which the United States is now showing in the Northern Ireland problem.

Although the State Department insists that Mr Clark's visit is only a routine one, Mr Mario Biaggi (Democrat, New York) is convinced that the Reagan Administration is trying to use its good offices to nudge along the talks taking place between Britain and Ireland something he has long been advocating.

Ever since Mr Biaggi founded the ad hoc congressional committee for Irish affairs four years ago and bgan demanding that Britian pulls its troops out of Northern Ireland he has been a constant thorn in the side of those British diplomats whose job is to portray British policy in Northern Ireland in the bestpossible light.

Mr Biaggi has been accused of supporting the IRA and helping to encourage its cmpaign of violence in the province. — a charge which he suspects was inspired by the British and then circulated among Britain's sympathizers in Congress and the press.

Mr Biaggi strongly denies those charges, arguing that he has consistently spoken out against acts of violence by either side in the conflict and that he was the first Congressman to condemn the murder of Lord Mountbatten of Burma. It was a matter of 'trying to discredit the messenger rather than the message", he said during a recent interview.

He maintained that his bipartisan committee, which has 125 members from both Houses of Congress, has been largely responsible for raising the Irish issue from a position of relative obscurity to one which enjoys national visibility.

Mr Biaggi's background is Italian. However, as a New York policeman for 23 years (during which time he was wounded 10 times and became known as America's most decorated policeman) he became friendly with Irish members of the force.

Critics suggest that Mr Biaggi's support for Irish causes is purely self-seeking and is aimed at winning the votes of the large New York Irish community. He said that only 6 per cent of the electorate in his east Bronx constituency is Irish However, his district does include the headquarters of Noraid, the (Irish) Northern Aid Committee.

Mr Biaggi claims a number of successes for his committee since it was set up in 1977. The committee's exposure of human rights abuses in Northern Ireland was, he says, partly responsible for the appointment by the British government of the Bennett Commission to investigate the charges.

The highlight of its accomplishments was the 1979 suspension of United States arms sales to Britain for use in Northern Ireland. But, probably most important of all, the committee has succeeded in focusing a continuous spotlight on Northern Ireland, keeping such issues as the Maze hunger strikes before the public and exposing incidents such as the recent refusal by the State Department to grant a visa to Mr Owen Carron, an IRA supporter who was elected to the British Parliament.

US ponders La Paz post as rights issues remain

From Our Correspondent La Paz, Dec 1

Washington is giving serious consideration to sending a career diplomat and drug enforcement specialist, Edwin Corr, to La Paz as America's first ambassador to Bolivia since the violent military takeover of July, 1980.

The State Department is convinced that the new regime of General Celso Torrelio Villa, who became President in September this year, has removed drug-trafficking officers from senior government posts and that the bleak human rights situation in the country has "improved considerably".

Washington seems to be the only one convinced, however. The United Nations' human rights commission delegate, Professor Hector Gros Espiell, who recently toured Bolivia is expected to produce a report critical of continuing rights violations by state security agents and military forces since General Torrelio took office on September 4. The commission will make its report public in mid-December, after giving the generals in La Paz a month to make observations and respond to the document.

The country's Roman Catholic Church also remains highly critical of the regime's human rights record, with many labour leaders and political activists in hiding and others in prison

General Torrelio — a friend of General Luis Garcia Meza, the now-deposed army leader who seized power last year from the elected President, Mrs Lydia Gueiler — has at last moved into the presidential residence in La Paz. General Garcia Meza himself had lived there for several weeks after being forced to resign last August.

Depraved monks purged

Ne Win clamps down on Burmese Buddhists

From Trevor Fishlock, Rangoon, Dec 1

Hundreds of Buddhist monks have recently been publicy disgraced for sleeping with women, as part of a Burmese government policy of of establishing control over the clergy. Large numbers of monks play a central part in Burma's life and the Government wants to exert authority over them to prevent threats to the regime's security.

Several hundred monks, including 40 senior and well known men, have been tried by ecclesiastical tribunals and punished. A number have confessed to a sexual relationship with women, a serious offence against priesthood rules, and have been dismissed from their orders.

Charlatans and criminals who took to the saffron robe and shaved their heads to escape the police have also been exposed and thrown out. A number of guilty monks have been named in the government-controlled press.

Small heretical sects have also been weeded out. At a recent trial, a group which argued that a hair on Buddha's head was of no more significance than a horse's tail was made to repent and was disbanded.

Buddhism is the faith of about 85 per cent of Burma's 34 million people. The priesthood is well rooted and influential. Every village has a monk as spiritual leader. As part of their upbringing, Buddhist boys are shaved, robed and sent for several days' religous instruction. Parents count it a great blessing if a son enters a monastery.

There are thought to be about 100,000 monks in Burma. Their robes are a common sight in the streets of Rangoon and Mandalay, the main cities. The figure is swollen by thousands of men who leave their occupations and become monks for a few weeks or months. They are just as respected as the regular monks and, like them, are supported by the gifts of devout people seeking the spiritual merit derived from giving.

Until 1885 when the British entered Mandalay and overthrew the Burmese monarchy, the state had some control over the priesthood. General Ne Win's regime is now reestablishing that control.

Estonians ignore protest strike call

Tallinn, Dec 1. — Businesses, public transport and factories operated normally this morning as Estonians here ignored a call for a mass 30-minute protest strike against Soviet policies.

Leaflets circulated here and in other Baltic state cities last month called for a strike against 41 years of Soviet rule. Several Estonians said they were aware of the strike call, but refused to join it.

One group of nine road workers downed tools at 10am when the strike was scheduled to begin, but refused to speak about it. They resumed work at the end of half-hour and then responded to questions. "Were you on strike?" a reporter asked. "We ran out of asphalt", one worker answered.

Travellers to Estonia often remark on the spirit of independence in the republic, which has a population of 1.1 million Estonians and 300,000 Russians. Foreigners are barred from the countryside and may travel, with permission from Moscow, only to the main cities where the Russian population is concentrated.

Estonia, with an area a little larger than Switzerland, was incorporated into the Soviet Union with the other Baltic republics of Lithuania and Latvia after a treaty between Stalin's Russia and Hitler's Germany on the eve of the Second World War.

In Stockholm, about 100 Estonian and Lithuanian exiles in Sweden organized a half-hour vigil to honour the strike.

Arms take priority at Romania conference

From Dessa Trevisan Bucharest, Dec 1

Mr Andrei Gromyko the Soviet Foreign Minister, arrived here today to preside over the routine Warsaw Pact foreign ministers' conference which begins today.

Although neither the agenda nor the duration of the conference was announced beforehand disarmament in the light of the professed enthusiasm of President Brezhnev, will take priority. In that context, an attempt will be made for the ministers to speak with one voice.

Romania, for its part, has for weeks been conducting its own peace campaign with spectacular marches organized throughout the country, as well as President Ceausescu's recent appeal for total European nuclear disarmament. This, on the whole, is in keeping with current Soviet thinking.

Nevertheless, it is not quite in tune with the rest of the East block — showing, as it does, Romania's distinct approach. Rather than allowing Washington and Moscow alone to handle the issue, President Ceausescu has now asked for European countries to be present in the talks as observers.

He has also voiced a distinct view on deployment of new missiles in West Europe and the removal of all the existing ones, implying that he shares the view of Soviet missile superiority, though the Romanians never explicitly said so.

Mr Ceausescu has called nuclear disarmament as an urgent and immediate step and he said that halting the deployment of new missiles and a rapid reduction of the existing ones should be done immediately. Therefore, rather than calling for total withdrawal of the existing Soviet missiles, he emphasized a rapid reduction.

The Romanians are keen to host the next European security conference which, if all goes well in Madrid, would follow in four years' time. And, more recently, Romania has now demanded that European countries be accorded observer status at the Geneva talks, and expects Moscow to back it up.

TWO CALVO SOTELO MEN ELECTED

From Richard Wigg Madrid, Dec 1

A sizable number of blank ballots in Spain's ruling Centre Democrat Party (UCD) today underlined how Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, is getting the men he wanted elected to top party posts only at the price of publicly confirming opposition to him.

In secret voting supporters of Señor Adolofo Suárez, the former Prime Minister, and elements among those on the party's right wing combined to return blank between a fifth and a third of their votes.

Señor Jaime Lamo de Espinosa, until now Agriculture Minister, became the new Parliamentary Party Leader, and Señor Imigo Cavero, the Culture Minister, became the party's secretary-general.

France pays court to Algeria

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Dec 1

President Mitterrand of France has apparently little taste for economic facts and figures; but he does have an acute sense of history and of its enduring impact. As he addressed a special session of the Algerian Popular Assembly today, he was certainly acutely conscious both of the symbolic importance of the occasion and of the long shadow their common history has cast over two decades of Franco-Algerian relations since Algeria's independence.

"I think," he said, "of all those whom, on one side or the other, history has united or torn asunder, but the past is the past, and we must look resolutely to the future."

He called upon both countries "to establish exemplary relations at last". His words have a familiar ring. General de Gaulle had expressed the same ambition nearly two decades ago. But the path to Hell of Franco-Algerian relations is paved with good intentions and missed opportunities.

Why should President Mitterrand believe he can succeed where his three predecessors failed? Because of the "new climate" between the two countries, he said, "arising from our common commitment to the socialist ideal and our attachment to national independence".

After so many deep disappointments, M Mitterrand is too much of a realist to believe that these two ingredients will be sufficient to remove all the difficulties between Paris and Algiers. But they should ensure that the difficulties are at last treated on their own merits and not in terms of the colonial past and of "one and a half million martyrs" of the war.

"Indeed, many bilateral problems remain," he emphasized today, "but we must set them in a context of understanding and mutual respect. None is insurmountable. Each of them must be examined from the dual aspect of the defence of legitimate interests and the determination to succeed. It is a matter of political will."

The fact that power is now held in Algiers by a pragmatist, suspicious of all ideologies and cautiously moving away from a doctrinaire approach to socialism at home, made it possible for both leaders in the third of their private meetings to take up dispassionately the problem of the price paid by France for Algerian natural gas. This is the most serious bone of contention between the two countries. Now that the question of Algerian immigrants in France has been defused by the Socialist Government's initiatives.

There are several areas of disagreement in foreign policy — over the Saudi peace plan, the Western Sahara, and Chad, for instance. But M Mitterrand's resolutely Third World approach, and the importance he attaches to Algeria as one of the pillars of the North-South dialogue, along with Mexico and India, has prevented them from getting out of hand.

There was no question of detailed negotiations during this brief state visit, but of demonstrating a political will, and of creating the right climate. Only in six months or a year, when each issue is tackled in detail, as M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, cautiously remarked, will one know whether the visit was a success.

Mr Zhao Ziyang: Chinese must work harder

China plans to curb bureaucracy

From David Bonavia, Peking, Dec 1

Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, today promised to slash "the bloated overlapping administrative structure which causes low efficiency."

"It has been decided that the reform will start with departments under the State Council (Cabinet of ministers) and be completed within a limited period," Mr Zhao told the National People's Congress.

He also denounced corrupt officials who take bribes from foreign businessmen or are tainted by "bourgeois ideology". He gave a warning against "a trend to shake off party leadership and get away from the socialist orbit."

Turning to the economy, he said that an increase in the value of national output in the order of 4 per cent would be sought in 1982, compared with the relatively low figure of 3 per cent this year. Emphasis would be put on food and consumer goods. Expenditure by the Government on education, science, culture, public health, physical culture and other social amenities would be increased by 5.9 per cent next year.

Mr Zhao called on the nation to work hard to increase output four-fold over the next 20 years.

"A fundamental change for the better in China's finance and economy" was the main target of the sixth five-year plan which would end in 1985, Mr Zhao said.

Mr Peng Zhen, the former mayor of Peking, who is in charge of redrafting China's legal codes, circulated an explanatory note at the Congress giving the reasons for the postponement of the planned revision of the constitution. Its contents were not immediately disclosed.

Recount gives Muldoon provisional majority

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington, Dec 1

New Zealand was moved from parliamentary deadlock today when an error was discovered in the vote count of one of the marginal seats in Saturday's general election.

Election figures gave the east coast city of Gisborne to Labour with a majority of 96 votes. This has been corrected to a margin of four in favour of the ruling National Party, giving it a clear parliamentary majority on provisional figfires.

The corrected standing of the parties now is National 47, Labour 43, Social Credit 2.

Postal votes could still affect the outcome in several closely contested seats. Final figures are not expected to be known till next week.

Mr Bruce Beetham, the Social Credit leader, has cancelled a meeting with Mr Bill Rowling, the Labour leader. They were to have met tomorrow to explore the chances of an accomodation should Labour become the majority party.

Mr Beetham said he wanted to await the final poll result. The planned meeting was in jeopardy earlier over a remark by Mr Jim Anderson, the Labour Party president, that a strong body of Labour opinion "does not wish to play footsie with Social Credit".

That irked Mr Beetham, who accused Mr Anderson of destroying prospects of a Labour-Social Credit coalition government. Mr Rowling still believes he and Mr Beetham have a responsibility to meet informally.

London rejects Salisbury resettlement aid call

By Our Foreign Staff

The British Government has rejected the recommendation of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee that more British aid should be made available for land purchase and resettlement in Zimbabwe.

Britain is already funding half the cost of the first resettlement programme and is pledged to contribute a further £10m. The Government says it cannot commit itself to doing more and will not devote more of the funds allocated to resettlement to land purchase alone.

The response of the British Government to the committee's report, published in London yesterday, makes it clear that the proposal made in 1977 as part of the Anglo-American plan for Rhodesia to establish a £500m Zimbabwe Development Fund, lapsed with the collapse of the Anglo-American proposal. There seems to have been an expectation among the Patriotic Front leaders at the Lancaster House Conference in London in 1979 that Western donor countries would provide this amount in aid at independence.

FAMINE THREAT IN UGANDA

From our Correspondent Nairobi, Dec. 1

Emergency food supplies would soon be needed again in parts of Karamoja, northeast Uganda, where thousands died from famine last year, the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) reported in Nairobi today.

Local harvest would be exhausted in Dodoth County, Northern Karamoja, before the end of the year, and the number of children appearing at relief feeding centres in this area was increasing.

The United Nations World Food Programme has emergency reserves of 10,000 tons of grain in the area, in case of need. Unicef said it might soon be necessary to provide extra food for 50,000 people once local stocks are exhausted.

Zanu loses £45,000 in party credit swindles

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Dec 1

Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu (PF) party has lost more than £45,000 through people using the party's name to obtain hotel accommodation, petrol and car repairs.

The scandal was disclosed by Senator Enos Nkala, the Minister of Finance, and the party's Treasurer-General, in an interview with *The Herald* newspaper here today.

He warned the business community not to extend credit to any member of the party unless he could produce written authorization signed by Senator Nkala. He said that the credit control would also apply to members of the central committee, many of whom are Cabinet ministers.

"We have this thing going on all over the country with party members, and even non-members, incurring debts and saying Zanu (PF) will pay", he said.

The High Court has issued a notice of seizure of Zanu (PF) property for payment of certain debts, he said.

The party was issuing a statement on the matter to prevent further unauthorized spending

In an editorial, *The Herald* described the affair as "a juicy morsel of scandal" that could be used by opponents of a one-party state. "If ordinary people believe that it is indeed Zanu (PF) officials who have been acting with such criminal intent imagine how they will react to the idea of a one-party system floated, it has to be remembered, by Zanu (PF)", the editorial stated.

Letter from Brazil

Torrential rain puts housing to test

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo, Dec 1

The rainy season has arrived here in São Paulo, and each day brings reports of people drowned, embankments and bridges collapsing, roads blocked, and houses washed away. From now until March rain will fall steadily up to two inches an hour in the heaviest storms.

This would put the best organized cities to the test, and Brazil's cities are far from being that. Brazil is a relentlessly capitalist society, at least as far as property is concerned, and although there is publicly financed housing for a few, it is for sale, not rent, and only the relatively better-off can afford it.

When people move in from the countryside their only option is to buy a tiny plot of land, and start building on it, and they move in by the million each year. Of Brazil's 120 million population, 80 million now live in the cities — 30 millions more than 10 years ago.

For most urban Brazilians, building, or extending their homes is the principal spare-time activity. This is the country *par excellence* of do it yourself, and of improvization. Although it may rain heavily for four months of the year, the weather is not otherwise hostile. Nobody has to worry about such things as close fitting windows, insulation, central heating, or fireplaces. Four walls and a roof are all that is really needed, and most people are up to building that.

Any weekend, or day of the week for that matter — for millions have no regular job — hundreds of thousands can be seen at work building, or modifying their homes in the suburbs. Few can afford more than a plot of perhaps 30ft by 100ft, some only half of that. Road transport to the distant suburbs is poor, the rail network skeletal, so everybody wants to live as near as possible to the city centre, or to their work. Densities of more than 20,000 inhabitants a square mile are common in some São Paulo suburbs.

Houses are improvised from whatever materials are available, and are rarely considered completely finished. Few people can afford a builder to do the work for them, so the range of styles, the consistency of materials, and the standard of finish, is as varied as the number of houses itself.

Fashions vary greatly too. A few years ago, when the pace of migration was less, most stuck to the traditional pattern of a roughly square, single storey house of four rooms, with walls of either baked, or dried mud bricks, and a graded wood frame roof, clad with tiles.

The cost of bricks, tiles and wood has soared, while cement has not gone up so quickly. So most houses today are built of cement blocks, with flat roofs of reinforced concrete beams — much cheaper than the old style, and more modern looking too, a very important point in up-to-date Brazil.

The only problem is, as millions of Brazilians are finding out in the pouring rains, that traditional styles, particularly the pitched roof, had their advantages. Many owners are dismayed to find that rain and wind have discovered weaknesses which will be difficult and costly to rectify. Besides, it is not unknown for saturated, top-heavy houses to collapse on top of their builder-occupants.

The rains may be no heavier this year than in the past, but since tens of thousands of city acres get covered with asphalt and cement each year, much more water runs off quickly from the hard surfaces. A big programme of river widening, straightening, deeping, and cleaning is always in full swing. But come the first heavy rains of November, and parts of the city, even the centre, can be flooded to depths of three or four feet.

Much of the new housing is built on steep hillsides, and an inch of rain in an hour can play havoc with newly laid water pipes, gutters and kerbstones. A journey out to the distant suburbs can be hazardous, with some crossroads in hilly districts feet deep in mud and debris carried down from higher ground. Suburbs echo to the roar of motor scrapers and bulldozers trying to fill in the holes, rectify the damage, and save embankments from the deluge.

In the middle of a sudden electric storm, the lights sometimes go off. Perhaps a post carrying power-lines has been carried away by the flood waters, or has been knocked down by an imprudent motorist; for at this time of the year, accidents rise too, and chains may be needed for some journeys. Muddy roads can be as treacherous as if they were covered in ice.

The new suburban dwellers are invariably crammed in four or five to a room, with only the kitchen not occupied by tiers of bunk beds and lines of sofas. One way of making a bit of extra cash is to build a second dwelling — house is too grand a word — in the back yard, and rent it out to the latest comer from the interior.

Despite all these travails, people are not going to move back to the countryside. Indeed, by 1990 it is estimated that the proportion of Brazilians living in cities will have risen from two thirds to three quarters.

Patrick Knight

Karpov praise for Britain

From Michael Binyon Moscow, Dec 1

Anatoly Karpov, the Soviet world chess champion, today singled out Britain and the United States as rising countries in chess. World standards were getting better, he said.

He described the conditions in the Italian city as "splendid" and thanked the organizers. He described his opponent, Victor Korchnoi, as a strong player with immense experience, but he said Korchnoi made a number of miscalculations in preparing for the match, over-estimating, in particular, his resources in opening theory.

"I stopped playing in tournaments four months before the match, whereas Korchnoi did so only at the end of August," Karpov conceded.

Speaking a day after receiving the Order of Lenin, the highest Soviet civilian award, at a ceremony in the Kremlin, Karpov looked fresh and relaxed.

Mancham accused on failed coup

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Dec 1

Mr Albert René, The Seychelles President, today accused Mr James Mancham, his predecessor, of involvement in last week's failed coup attempt, in which a group of white mercenaries briefly seized control of the Seychelles airport then hijacked an airliner to South Africa. Mr Mancham has denied the allegation.

Mr René assumed power in 1977, a year after the Seychelles became independent, when Mr Mancham was ousted while attending a Commonwealth conference in London.

In a radio broadcast today Mr René said proof of Mr Mancham's involvement was obtained from some partly-destroyed tapes found in the airport after the mercenaries had hijacked an Air India jet and made their escape. The tapes would have been broadcast over Seychelles radio had the coup succeeded. He did not say whether Mr Mancham spoke on the tapes.

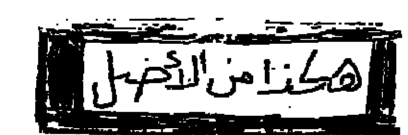
Mr René announced a further relaxation of the curfew which was imposed after the mercenary attack. It was lifted today from noon to 5pm and from tomorrow it will be enforced between 6pm and 6am.

Mr René called on South Africa to prove its claim that it was not involved in the attack by returning the men concerned to the Seychelles, where they would be tried by an international court appointed by the United Nations.

The Seychelles authorities have so far given no information on how many of those involved in the coup attempt have been arrested, but there are reports that several arrests, including those of people staying in hotels as tourists, have been made.

One dead mercenary was left behind by the attackers, and one Seychelles soldier is said to have died in the fighting.

□ Victoria, Seychelles: More than 1,000 tourists have been stranded in the Seychelles since the coup attempt



Fashion by Suzy Menkes

Princess and the pearls

The Princess and the Pearls (at the Palace Theatre for a season) is an intriguing mystery play for family entertainment. The pretty young Princess of the title appears in a variety of pearl chokers and the audience has to deduce, from the attitudes of the cast, which are the real royal pearls.

The play opens with the arrival of Lady Sarah, the Princess's sister, at St Paul's Cathedral wearing a six-strand pearl choker with claw foot pearl clasp.

The scene switches to the state landau carrying the Princess away on honeymoon; she is wearing the identical choker, apparently removed from her sister's neck at the reception.

Has Lady Sarah been murdered for her pearls? Has the Princess lost her own three-strand necklace, much photographed throughout the summer season and copied by jewellers throughout the land?

The second act takes place three months later when the audience is relieved to see the three-strand necklace reappear in Wales and Lady Sarah reappear in London.

But the plot thickens near Christmas when the Princess is spotted leaving Covent Garden with a magnificent six-strand necklace with a dazzling new clasp. Her Cinderella sister Sarah is reduced to three strands of pearls.

Who owns the most pearls? Is there a third sister involved in the jewel swap? Has the Prince yet done the decent thing and bought his beloved a choker of her own?

A subsidiary plot concerns the jewellers involved in creating chokers for the aristocratic young extras wanting to ape the Princess.

Are Garrards, the royal jewellers, who sell pearls by the oyster-load and clasps to choice, involved with the pearly princess? Could she have chosen them at Collingwoods or asked for them at Aspreys?

Or has the Prince been a cad and bought one of the many copies of the pearl choker to cover his wife's naked neck?

The audience is left guessing to the end.

Three tier pre-wedding pearls

Six of the best for Lady Sarah at St Paul's

Snap for the Princess as she leaves for honeymoon

A new choker for the ballet? Lady Sarah, behind, is reduced to three strands.

Thinking big about greatcoats

Meryl Streep seems to have done as much for capes as she has for the cause of the liberated Victorian lady. Her wave-lashed first appearance in the film of *The French Lieutenant's Woman* underlines the romance and mystery of the all-enveloping cape.

I don't know if the screening of *War and Peace* will help to popularize the greatcoat. But the big coat and the swirling cape both follow today's feeling for the cavalier look. They also answer to a general need to find an outer garment that fits stylishly over everything you own.

It used to be the norm for a woman to own at least a couple of winter coats. A tailored town coat and a tweedy country shape were essentials in a wardrobe, with a lighter spring coat and a macintosh for in-between seasons.

Inflation and layered dressing have revolutionized that concept. Most women now have only one heavy-weight coat, making do with cardigan coats, shawls, and jackets for anything but the most brutal weather.

If you have only one coat, it has got to be right, which means a classic in colour and shape. The favourite fabric of this season for both coats and capes is loden, that hedge green thick wool fabric associated with mountains and warm enough for the Austrian army. The other favourite is camel, with variations on earth-coloured weaves also popular.

Many readers tell me that they find it difficult to get a winter coat. I think this comes from trying on a coat in your own size, rather than in one or two sizes bigger.

A generous cut and a really long hemline are essential if you want your coat to feel comfortable over a tweed jacket or bulky cardigan and to look right over the prairie skirts and knickerbockers.

It follows that a raglan shoulder is a wiser choice than a set-in sleeve and a swing-back more practical than a fitted coat.

You won't find a really big coat for much under £100 these days and the most luxurious in camel hair or cashmere are three times that price.

If you are buying below that level, it will pay to think bigger still and buy two sizes over your dress shape. Women are also increasingly raiding men's departments for classic coats which have a generous cut and often a lower price tag for the equivalent quality.

Big loden trench coat with leather collar-back and buttons £215, scarf from a selection and herringbone patterned shirt from Aquascutum, 100 Regent Street, London, W1 and Harrods, Knightsbridge SW1. Fairisle cardigan £47.50, by Mulberry from Liberty, Regent Street, W1. Fairisle gloves by Dent-Fownes from Army and Navy. Ribbed tights by Elbeo. Fleece-lined boots from Russell & Bromley.

Vicuna cape braided in black £79, also in camel or black. Paisley patterned tunic £35, russet cord breeches £37 and ribbed tights. All from Jaeger shops nationwide. String and leather gloves by Dent-Fownes from Army and Navy. Fleece-lined suede boots £36.99 from Russell and Bromley.

Photographs by Tony Boase

Trouble and strife — or politics in the family

The 1979 General Election proved, if proof were needed, that a lot of women shared bed and board with men of a wholly different political persuasion. In fact, Mrs Thatcher might well be leading the Opposition were it not for the wives of Labour-voting husbands who sneaked a Tory vote into the ballot box.

What makes their case different from my own is that they had the good sense to keep quiet about their voting intentions. But then, their husbands were habitual socialists, a breed easy enough not to take issue with, and not, like my own dear one, a brand new convert to the SDP (or Sodpal as we detractors prefer to call it).

We both look back with uneasy nostalgia to the days when he was an unaligned capitalist and I was a benign radical. We resolved our political differences over a bottle of Scotch and mutually tolerant talk about a society that combined compassion with incentives. For the rest of the time, we just went about our business.

The formation of the SDP has changed aimless political discussion as we know it.

It's the Noisy Party and nobody can keep quiet about it. Like one who has witnessed the miracle at Fatima, my husband can't keep his conversion to himself. A reference to proportional representation wiggles its way into every conversation, as if it were some kind of moral imperative.

We would both be better off if I could learn how to be enigmatically silent, the way a surgeon is when a recently operated-on patient swears that the scalpel is still inside his stomach, but I am as noisy as a whole council of Sodpals.

So I shriek, until the glasses tinkle with the vibrations, that the probable outcome of PR is that every household will be issued with a pasta-making machine and middle-class green wellies.

Ever since the SDP suggested that its members could subscribe by credit card, I have visualized it as the party whose aim is to make life safe for the man in the Leisuretime Safari Suit. I could never see the point of conducting opinion polls at the recent Crosby by-election. A count of all households with battery-operated vacuum cleaners for brushing down the car upholstery would have predicted the size of Mrs Williams's vote.

There is some satisfaction to be gained in the scoring of cheap points, and the SDP mailings to its membership is a fruitful source of nastiness.

A recent one gave details of its "Xmas Fayre". "F-A-Y-R-E", I sneered. I think that's probably worse than Bill Rodgers's new haircut and David Owen's sing-songs on the first class only train. F-A-Y-R-E, oh my paws and whiskers." This is the year that my husband refused to let me sell him a Labour Party raffle ticket.

Our domestic situation is not unique. Of the married couples I know, more men have joined the The Noisy Party than their wives, giving credence to the theory that, politically, men are more volatile than women. I suspect that part of the reason why women like myself are staying put is because we are immune to the hard sell. We have learnt by now that however brilliant the television commercial, the detergent it lauds can not really make the sheets look permanently sunlit.

"I loathe this constant persuasion," said the wife of a recent convert. "It's making me sympathize, belatedly, with Freud's neurotic female patients. They probably got neurotic because they couldn't *prove* he was wrong even though they knew he was."

Another woman said that she's never had any problems reconciling her desire for equal opportunity with her intention of educating her children privately. After listening to her newly SDP husband give a balanced, reasonable and lengthy explanation about not denying people freedom of choice- .... basic right of every parent .... must level up not down, etc. etc., she wanted to slip out and set fire to Eton.

Maybe I remain loyal to the Labour Party because I suspect I have got a good thing going there. Years of mingling with belligerent women like me has had a lovely effect on the socialist male. There is no one as willing as he to run a crèche or cook a meal. I do not suppose it is terribly relevant to the state of the nation, but one of the things I like best about Labour Party meetings is that I feel surrounded by men who would not dream of making jokes about women drivers.

Nevertheless, some of my best female friends have joined the Social Democrats. They are all hot contenders in the Superwoman stakes. All week they juggle job/home/husband/children without dropping anything. On Friday evening, they load up the Volvo with home-made pâte and aubergines and drive off to a second, country, home, which they run with equal perfection. They are bright, witty women and I love to be in their company. But unlike the socialist women I know,

Penny Perrick: noisy party at breakfast time.

they don't express many views about David Stockman or Dr Nicholas Humphrey or the zero option.

They could say, and fairly, that women like me, who certainly do not shine in all domestic departments, have more time to concentrate on political issues. To which I could reply, with equal fairness, that that is the whole point. I feel that, if they are not careful, female Social Democrats, for all their party's splendid pronouncements about equality between the sexes, may find themselves becoming a more glamorous version of the traditional female constituency worker — that put-upon drudge who made the tea and licked the envelopes and rarely got short-listed.

Already at SDP gatherings, I notice that women, instead of having their say, merely take an interest — or at least pretend to. Even the redoubtable Shirley Williams has acquired this skill. At a party recently, she got into conversation with my husband. Or rather, she did not. My husband talked. She listened. He went on. She did not interrupt. He talked some more. She put her head on one side, the better to hear the wonders that spilled from his lips.

On the way home, I asked him if he would like me to behave so attentively — "put my head on one side and listen to you, I mean, instead of talking all the time." This opportunity to score points was irresistible. "No point in your doing that," he said. "It only works if you've got charm."

Penny Perrick

Sparkle at your feet

In the absence of glass slippers, Cinderella ballgowns leave a nasty gap below the ankles. A spaghetti junction of gilded straps entwined around the toes looks odd with a crinoline skirt. Court shoes and pumps need to be decorated at the toe in order not to look as though you are dancing in your day shoes.

Since Edward Rayne's family came into the shoe business by dressing Lillie Langtry's little feet, it is not surprising that he should be the man to put the sparkle back into the (royal) court shoe.

Edward Rayne, the head of a shoe empire that has retail footprints across America, tells me that clothes fashions affect shoe design, but that the demand for a comfortable shoe and the desire to look elegant in high heels remain the constants of his business.

The big growth areas of the last decade have been in boots (which started with the Ballet Russe boots in the 1920s) and in espadrilles.

"There is now an enormous variety of new textures, materials and finishes for shoes," he explains. "We have cobra patterns, lustre calf and the metallics. The shoe trade was once dominated by America, but gradually European style emerged. I don't think our shoes are particularly English. The world is our marketplace and the competition isn't local, but international."

Shoe technology has now become so refined that a pair of shoes made in two days can be as good as one that used to take weeks. But Edward Rayne claims that shoes are still the most complicated articles of wearing apparel and a lot of consumer problems come from public ignorance.

"American women are fitting mad, they really know their sizes. No woman should have to suffer to be beautiful, and American women certainly will not."

Passionate collectors of footwear like Lady Docker must be dear to any shoemaker's heart, but Edward Rayne says that all shoes fascinate him and the first thing he looks at when he meets someone is the feet.

"My wife says that I am permanently looking at the pavement", says Edward Rayne, who himself wears the most conservative of gleaming leather shoes.

I cannot help feeling that John Bratby, who painted the strong portrait hanging in Rayne's elegant Mayfair flat, ought to have painted his subject from head to leather toe.

■ Glittering gilded crescent moons on a black satin court shoe. Also in plain bronze mock snakeskin, £64. ■ Mink pom-pom on a low-heeled black velvet boudoir shoe, £69.50. ■ Multi-coloured leather thongs make an abstract design black suede courts. Also in tan, £69.50. ■ Art deco sunburst on the toe of red suede court shoes. Also in black, £59.50. ■ All shoes in sizes 3½ to 8½ from Rayne, 15 Old Bond Street, W1, Harrods and Harvey Nichols, SW1 and main Rayne branches nationwide.

Drawing by Buncan Mil

Court of Appeal — **Law Report** December 2 1981 — Divisional Court

Date of frustration due to Iran-Iraq war

The Wenjiang

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Dunn and Lord Justice Fox

[Judgment delivered December 1]

A judge was correct to grant charterers leave to appeal to the High Court under section 1 of the Arbitration Act 1979 from the decision of an arbitrator that the date of frustration of a charterparty, concerning a vessel which was trapped in the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, by reason of the war between Iran and Iraq, was November 24, 1980, rather than an earlier date.

The Court of Appeal dismissed, to that extent, an appeal by the owners, Hemisphere Shipping Co Ltd of Hongkong, from a decision of Mr Justice Robert Goff granting leave to the charterers, International Sea Tankers Inc, of Liberia, to appeal from an interim award of the arbitrator, Mr Donald Davies.

Mr John Thomas for the owners; Mr Michael Dean, QC for the charterers.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that owing to the fighting which broke out in September 1980, 60 ships were trapped in the Shatt-al-Arab. They were flying flags of many nations and sailing under different charterparties. In the early days it was hoped that the vessels would be allowed out, but that hope vanished in the first few weeks. The crews left, and the ships remained and were still there.

It was agreed on all sides that all the charterparties became frustrated. The question was: at what date? It was vital because from that date onwards no hire would be payable by the charterers.

In four cases heard by arbitrators much the same evidence had been given in each case, but the dates of frustration varied from October 4 to December 9, 1980. Something had to be done to procure uniformity of treatment.

The present case could be compared with *The Evia* (unreported August 6). The facts in the two cases were virtually indistinguishable: both vessels loaded or discharged at Basrah on September 22, 1980, when fighting around the town was starting. They were not allowed to leave and most of the crews had left by early October. The charters expired in April and May 1981, respectively.

In *The Wenjiang*, the arbitrator fixed the date of frustration as November 24, 1980; in *The Evia*, where the arbitrators disagreed, an umpire fixed it at October 4. In each case there was application to the commercial judge for leave to appeal, which was granted.

When Mr Justice Robert Goff gave judgment in *The Evia*, he said he that could find no fault in the reasoning or conclusion of the umpire, and agreed that the contract had been frusatrated on October 4. *The Wenjiang* was held up to await the decision of the House of Lords in *The Nema* (*The Times*, July 17; [1981] 3 WLR 292).

Now it was said that the judge should not have given leave to appeal. So the case raised once again the guidelines to be applied under the 1979 Act in applications for leave to appeal.

The principles were that the judge should first see if it was a "one-off" case. It might be "one-off" because the facts were so exceptional that they were singular to the case and not likely to occur again, or because it was a point of construction of a clause which was not likely to be used again.

In such a case the judge should not give leave to appeal if he thought the arbitrator was right or probably right or might have been right; he should only grant it if he formed the provisional view that the arbitrator was wrong on a point of law which could substantially affect the rights of one or other of the parties.

If it was not a "one-off" case, but gave rise to a question of construction of a standard form with facts which might occur repeatedly or from time to time, leave should be given if the judge thought the arbitrator might have gone wrong on the construction, but not if he thought he was right.

The present was not a singular case. If each award as to the date of frustration were considered in isolation, there would seem to be no good grounds for interfering: the judge could not say in any case that the arbitrator had misdirected himself in point of law or that the decision was such that no reasonable abitrator could reach.

But when 60 ships were trapped, it was a mistake to consider each case in isolation. It was important to the trade that there should be uniformity of decision: see *per* Lord Diplock in *The Nema* at p305.

Thus if the judge in the first case thought that the arbitrator's decision was not right, or may not have been right, he should give leave, and then on the hearing consider what should be the correct decision on law on the facts. His decision would afford guidance binding on arbitrators in later arbitrations. So also if the case went to the Court of Appeal. In short, the first authoritative decision should be treated as governing all others.

Applying those principles, given the different dates decided in *The Evia* and *The Wenjiang*, the judge was right to give leave to appeal in both cases, so that he, or the Court of Appeal, could consider what was the correct date to take as the date of frustration.

Apart from the point about uniformity, there was ground for thinking that in *The Wenjiang* the arbitrator applied the wrong test of frustration. He said that he was much attracted by the date of October 7, 1980, because by then "there had been sufficient time, since the outbreak of the war, to see the pattern of events and to conclude that the conflict might be of a prolonged nature." He apparently only departed from that date because he had regard to what he described as the "deprivation/unexpiration principle". That might have led him into error.

On the further ground that the arbitrator might have been not right, therefore, it was proper for the judge to give leave to appeal.

There were two further points on construction of a standard form charterparty. On them the arbitrator was clearly right, and leave should not be given on those points.

LORD JUSTICE DUNN, concurring, said that in the light of *The Nema*, the test applied by Mr Justice Robert Goff, namely whether the arbitrator either misdirected himself in law or reached a conclusion as to the date of frustration which no reasonable arbitrator could reach, was not in the circumstances the correct one, since it was not a "one-off" case.

His Lordship's provisional view was that the arbitrator's decision was not right. Although the arbitrator referred to the classic statement of frustration in *Davis Contractors Ltd v Fareham UDC* ([1956] AC 696), he based his conclusion on what he called the "deprivation/unexpiration principle," which was first stated by Lord Loreburn [see *F. A. Tamplin Steamship Co Ltd v Anglo-Mexican Petroleum Products Co Ltd* ([1916] 2 AC 397)] when the doctrine of frustration was in its infancy. Whether it now formed any, and if so what, part of the developed doctrine, was a matter on which the courts should have an opportunity of pronouncing.

Moreover, in view of the different dates that had been fixed by arbitrators, the court should intervene in the interest of certainty.

The other two points were covered by the other limb of the *The Nema*. Since they raised questions of standard form construction, a strong prima facie case would have to be made out that the arbitrator was wrong in his construction. No such case had been made out.

Lord Justice Fox agreed.

Solicitors: Holman, Fenwick & Willan; Sinclair, Roche & Temperley.

Custody order with supervision

C v C

In a custody issue brought under the Guardianship of Minors Act 1971 justices should not make an order under section 2(b) of the Guardianship Act 1973 whereby the care of the minor was committed to the local authority if the local authority had intimated to the justices that if such an order was made then it was the intention to leave the minor in the care of the natural parent. In those circumstances the justices should make a custody order in favour of the natural parent together with a supervision order.

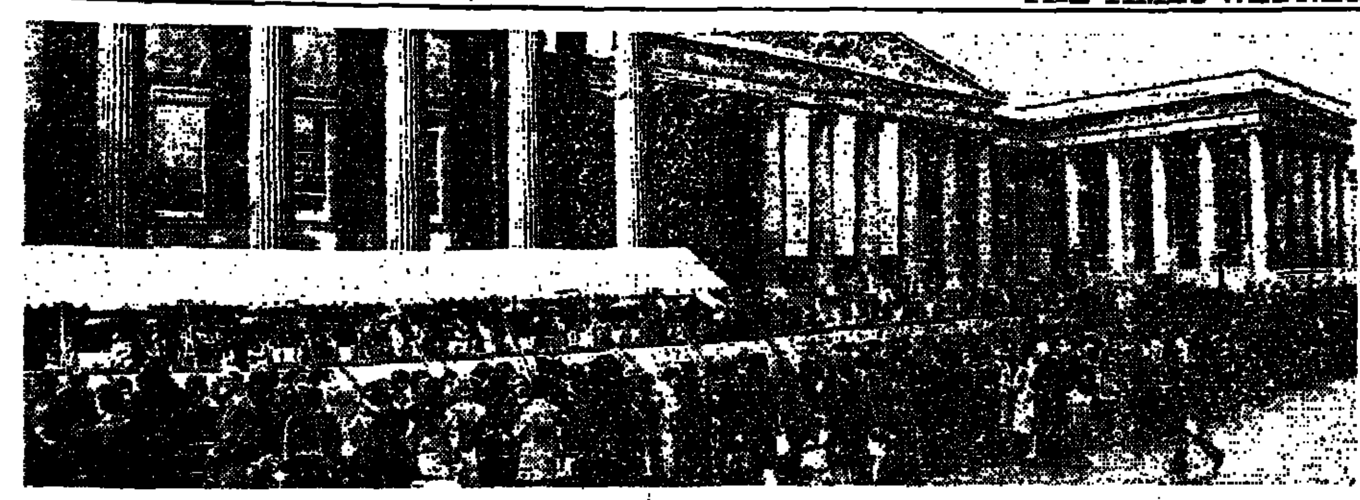
MR JUSTICE EWBANK, with whom Mr Justice Wood in the Divisional Court of the Family Division agreed, allowed on November 30 a mother's appeal from the decision of Sutton justices who on cross applications by each parent for custody had decided that the care of the minor should be committed to the London Borough of Sutton.

His Lordship said that the purpose of the section was to take away the care of the minor from the parents and entrust that care to someone other than either parent. In the present case the justices had seen pschyiatric reports on each parent and the social worker had reported that the mother was capable of looking after the little girl. It was not open to the justices to take the view that it was impracticable or undesirable to entrust the care of the child to the mother. The appeal should be allowed and custody granted to the mother together with a supervision order.

Variation is remedy, not appeal

Nelson v Nelson

Mr Justice Wood sitting with Mr Justice Ewbank in the Divisional Court of the Family Division on November 30 on dismissing a husband's appeal that the order of justices made under section 2 of the Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates' Courts Act 1978 was excessive because of his changed circumstances, said the proper course was to return to the justices for a variation of the order instead of bringing the matter by way of appeal to the Divisional Court at considerable expense to the Legal Aid Fund — the public purse.



Government grants in £	1981/82	1980/81	% change in grant
British Museum	11,116,000	10,290,000	+8
Imperial War Museum	3,844,000	3,277,000	+17.3
National Gallery	5,697,000	5,603,000	+1.7
National Portrait Gallery	1,606,000	1,482,000	+8.4
National Maritime Museum	3,622,000	3,411,000	+6.2
Tate Gallery	4,706,000	4,591,000	+2.5
Wallace Collection	671,000	676,000	–0.7
Science Museum	6,448,000	5,987,000	+7.7
Victoria and Albert Museum	8,850,000	8,898,000	–0.5
National Galleries of Scotland	2,263,000	1,949,000	+16
National Museum of Wales	5,787,000	4,980,000	+16

Queues for the Tutankhamun exhibition at the British Museum — proof that museums can still pull in the crowds

More money for museums, but is it enough?

Mrs Thatcher responded swiftly yesterday to the suggestion that museums and art galleries are being starved of funds, so much so that the British Museum may be forced to close. She told the Commons that "the museums may look forward to some increase next year", although the precise amount would be announced only when the full public expenditure allocations are decided.

Now museum chiefs are wondering whether the increase is going to be enough to keep their collections fully on show. If not, museums face partial closure, a restriction on the number of opening days, the prospect of entrance charges and a hunt for commercial sponsors.

The certainty and bluntness with which Dr David Wilson, director of the British Museum, predicted that the museum would have to close in two years if Government grants were not increased was received with an air of astonishment by the House of Commons select committee on the funding of the arts.

When this warning was followed with the likelihood that, similarly, the National and the Tate galleries could be reduced to opening only a small number of rooms — and that for the Victoria and Albert the result would be "catastrophic", the committee began to test whether this valuable collection of museum and gallery directors were crying wolf.

Almost all the bodies and individuals coming before the committee, under Mr Christopher Price, MP, its chairman, have complained about the lack of funds and asked for more, but here was a formidable case explaining what would happen if there were no more.

For Dr Wilson, it is a straightforward matter. The British Museum has no spare cash, and a lack of extra money would mean a real cut of 20 per cent or so over two years because of inflation. Since 85 per cent of the Government's grant for general maintenance and running costs goes on salaries, it would mean a reduction in staff.

The museum has frozen 60 posts and soon, Dr Wilson says, certain galleries will have to be closed. For the Museum, security is crucial, and without enough warders the galleries cannot remain open.

For the national museums and art galleries, as listed in the accompanying table, the Government provides a grant to cover the cost of running and maintaining them, and makes a grant for purchases and capital spending. It is the wide variation in this latter grant which gives the different percentage comparisons between the two years.

Dr Wilson pointed out to the select committee on Monday that the museum itself needed many improvements. Though the sculpture galleries have been brought up to modern standards, the upper galleries have not — six need floors strengthening, eight now have no permanent displays, 11 need remodelling and the Renaissance gallery is reduced to a corridor.

He argues that expenditure to bring the museum up to standard and maintain it would be well justified. "The museum is a profitable investment for the country," Dr Wilson says. On British Tourist Authority figures it earns many times more in foreign currency than the Government spends on it.

"But it needs a considerable and continuing injection of funds ... If those funds are not available the buildings will deteriorate and the museum will be increasingly less attractive to tourists."

"It needs a considerable and continuing injection of funds to bring the buildings up to, and to maintain them at, modern standards" — Dr David Wilson, Director of the British Museum.

"Private funding, even on the most generous scale, can never be a substitute for full state support of the National Gallery" — Sir Michael Levey, Director.

"The ultimate solution for the great University Museums will have to be some form of direct support from the Exchequer" — Mr David Piper, Director of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The difficulties facing an institution such as the National Gallery if the Government does not increase its funding for maintenance are uppermost in the thoughts of Sir Michael Levey, its director. He believes the first requisites for the institution are that it is adequately staffed, to be open to the public, for proper care to be taken of the collection and that this is housed in a building properly maintained for the purpose.

"Funding of these basic requirements of a national institution must, I believe, continue to be, as it always has been, a matter for central government," he says.

Regional museums relying on public funds are also worried about the effect of possible Government cuts, working through local authorities. The Norfolk Museums Service looks after 15 museums and an archaeological unit, which are supported almost completely by the Norfolk County Council.

The museums service makes an admission charge, which Mr Francis Cheetham, its director, says has worked well. He believes that though charging does not in the long term seriously affect attendance figures at large, it undoubtedly affects adversely the smaller, less robust museums, making them even less viable.

Norfolk County Council insists on raising charges along with inflation, or leaving the service to make good the shortfall.

The national museums are united against making charges for their permanent collections. Such charges cause a drop in attendance and hit people who otherwise could not afford to go to look at works of art. Though they are not against voluntary donations at the door, they are against such a system as operated by the Metropolitan in New York, where, Dr Wilson says, "they almost blackmail you before they will let you in".

The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford is funded by its parent university, but as Mr David Piper, its director, emphasizes, the scale of support needed is beyond local authorities and the university.

Dr Piper says that the "ultimate solution for the great university museums — Oxford, Cambridge, London and Glasgow — will have to be some form of direct support from the Exchequer, perhaps in terms of a 50/50 grant in aid towards running costs."

The one possibility for funding these vast institutions is sponsorship, but no national museum or gallery sees this as the answer — partly because private bodies want to be associated mainly with the more glamorous side of the work. They will support special exhibitions, but are hardly likely to help pay for the runnings costs or pay the salaries of the staff. Dr Wilson put it succinctly when he said that you were unlikely to find a Bird's Eye fish finger sponsored warder. Sponsorship clearly has its limits.

All museums and galleries seek sponsorship for what they consider suitable projects. Sir Michael Levey says the National wants to attract the widest possible financial support from private, commercial and industrial patronage, and recognizes that private funding can enhance the building, its collection and its services to the community.

"Private funding, however, even on the most generous scale, can never be a substitute for full state support of the National Gallery." There would always be scope for private aid, but the strength of Government commitment offered the best basis for drawing support also from the private sector.

Dr Roy Strong, director of the V and A, believes that private funding has meant that "museums have suffered from the bias towards and the emphasis on the performing arts." To the public, sponsorship tended to be equated with the performing-arts lobby, which had glamour and free seats to offer — difficult competition for museums. So Dr Strong believes the only way private funding for the "less glamorous" museums will come about is through a sustained long-term re-education of the public. "The V and A is part of a Government department," he says. "Donors naturally express a reluctance to give to what is so specifically an arm of the Government."

That is a point viewed sympathetically by Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy, which does not receive any Government grant. The Academy, he said, survived entirely by "rattling the begging bowl", although it was in some ways more fortunate than the national museums, which had permanent collections. "We have no permanent collection and have a constantly changing programme. Ours is a repertory. Theirs is more like *The Mousetrap*.

Sir Hugh said the national museums were seen, wrongly, as a Government department, which made them appear less attractive propositions for sponsorship. "They will have to remain Government-funded, and if the funds go down they will have to close some rooms. It is sad, but it might have to happen."

The Tate Gallery is looking enviously at its counterpart in Paris, the National Museum of Modern Art at the Pompidou Centre; the Mitterrand government has announced a doubling in its grant increase. The Tate and the other museums and galleries will not get that, for sure, but by bringing their serious plight into the open they have a chance to exert just enough pressure to avoid the worst.

Christopher Warman
Arts Correspondent

Henry Fairlie

Britain: only good for a giggle now

Washington

It is hard to get used to the fact that Europe has become front page news in America. It may be equally hard for Europeans to believe that this is a new and even surprising development. Not only is Europe news. Very important people, including the President, are making speeches about it. Even press secretaries at the White House now have to know where Europe is.

Europe has been discovered by America, but as unintentionally as America was discovered by Colombus. Setting off last January to settle things in Central America, in Africa, in Asia, and the Middle East, this administration suddenly found Europe in its path.

At first, like Colombus when he came across America, it did not believe that Europe really exists. It held the familiar American view: Europe is Nato; Nato is American; and Nato does what America tells it to do. In a fairly decent way. Europe was referred to at White House banquets as America's ally, but ally did not mean partner. Ally certainly did not mean being equal.

If Europeans obeyed, they were good allies. If they disobeyed or even complained, they were told to pull their weight. But in the past few weeks all this has changed. The most striking evidence was the President's remarkable speech on the nuclear arms race, delivered before Mr Brezhnev's visit to West Germany. As one inquired here and there who had a hand in writing the speech — was it Mr Alexander Haig, or Mr Richard Allen? — the most emphatic answer finally was "Herr Schmidt".

Editorials, to some extent inspired by official guidance, said weightily that Europeans could now take comfort from the fact that their voice, at least, was heard. But the speech itself was only the centrepiece of a profound reversal of the Administration's attitude to the Soviet Union and therefore to western Europe.

To some extent before the speech, but increasingly since, Europe had become the focus of serious attention. Its new prominence in the news, and even in conversation around the city, is not the manufacture of journalism. It comes directly from the Administration at the highest level.

But what is this Europe, which now has a voice in Washington? First and foremost, it is Helmut Schmidt. It is West Germany. Schmidt cannot lift a teacup in Bonn without saucers rattling in Washington. Even if he does nothing, he gets front page coverage.

To some extent, France and François Mitterrand are found to be just as interesting, and are given increasing attention. A powerful statement commending Mitterrand and his policies was recently issued by the influential Foreign Affairs Institute at Johns Hopkins University. No one can doubt that, now the Administration has got over its initial fear that France would be run by Communists, it takes France quite seriously. It expects Mitterrand to be "difficult", but not in the same way as de Gaulle, and it recognizes that an ally *can* be difficult.

But while the front page stories and the editorials now talk of Europe and earnestly examine its leaders' pronouncements, one rarely finds the names of Margaret Thatcher or Lord Carrington.

For a brief moment this past weekend, one had the feeling that if Britain now has a Prime Minister at all, her name is Shirley Williams.

In a way that is odd. When the Reagan Administration took office, its economic policies were judged, favourably or unfavourably, in the light of Mrs Thatcher's. She was then much better known than Lady Diana Spencer, and there were even Americans who believed that Mrs Thatcher was now the Queen. Mrs Thatcher and Milton Friedman and Ronald Reagan: that was the triumvirate which would restore health to the western economies.

But what I wrote once at that time — that it was hard sometimes to know if people were talking about America or Britain, Reagan or Thatcher, so similarly were their policies reported and discussed — could not be written today. Thatcher economics are no longer held up as a model for Reagan economics. But even more bitter than that for Englishmen about town is that no one cares at all, really, what *she* or her Foreign Secretary says about foreign policy.

Mrs Thatcher has become, lamentably, a bit of a joke. Influential people in the Administration and journalism seem to take their news and opinions about her from *Private Eye*. If she lifts a tea cup, saucers do not rattle here. It is no pleasure to report this, but as Europe counts for more and more, Britain seems to count for less and less.

The special relationship is now special only because it no longer exists. That is a development, I must emphasize, of the past few months. Mrs Thatcher sprinted ahead of all other European leaders to Washington last spring. Lord Carrington then, for a time, needled the Americans. He seemed sufficiently important at least to be disliked.

All that has gone. Britain is now one thing to America, and one thing only: a Princess and her unborn child. When I left England in 1966, Peter Cook had said that if Britain went on in the way it was going, it would sink giggling into the sea. Britain is now, to Americans, a giggle.

No Englishman of my acquaintance in Washington ever passes the great spread of the British embassy here without wondering if its majestic and extensive buildings are any longer necessary. They are valuable real estate. They would fetch a lot of money. China might put in a bid for it to house its cultural attaché.

As far as one understands its functions, the British embassy is now a base for young ladies from Kensington to search for an American husband, preferably the heir to a Chicago meat packer. The glossy voice of Kensington, the bossy voice of Kensington, still has its charms here, and captures unsuspecting billionaires.

The special relationship was built at a second and even third level of British and American officials who worked closely together on winning the war and then trying to win the peace with such projects as the Marshall Plan. Those levels of intimate, official, and even semi-official cooperation no longer exist. The special relationship today, in so far as it exists at all, is mutual anticipation of the pitter-patter of tiny royal feet.

The lesson for Egypt in Iran's tragedy

Edward Mortimer reappraises the latest book by the Egyptian journalist Mohamed Heikal in the light of his imprisonment by President Sadat and release last week on the personal orders of Sadat's successor.

Since readers of *The Times* had an opportunity to sample Mr Heikal's book in serial form in July, hundreds, if not thousands of people have been executed in Iran, President Bani-Sadr has turned up in France, his successor has been blown up in Tehran, Mr Heikal has been thrown into prison by President Sadat, President Sadat has been assassinated and *his* successor, Mr Mubarak, has released Mr Heikal.

All of which proves, not that *The Return of the Ayatollah* has been overtaken by events, but rather that both it and its author remain extremely topical. The book is now on sale, and remains as readable and illuminating as ever.

Because Heikal was for long the semi-official mouthpiece of Nasser, because he played a role in the power struggle which followed Nasser's death, and now also because he has been a political prisoner, one tends to think of him as a politician. He himself, however, has always insisted that he is first and foremost a journalist, and that claim is triumphantly vindicated in this book. It is very much a journalist's book — indeed, an outstanding example of the genre — and not a political tract.

But that does not mean it is free from bias, or that it has no political message. We are all biased in one way or another; Heikal's bias is perhaps a little more obvious to western readers because they are less likely to share it. That adds to the interest of the book: it enables us to see the Iranian revolution, not through the eyes of a western journalist sharing our own assumptions but through those of a nationalist from another Muslim country which, though different from Iran in many respects, yet shares some crucial experiences with it.

Heikal first visited Iran in 1950-1. The parallel between the situations of Iran and Egypt at that time is striking. Both were in the throes of a bitter struggle to establish their national independence against the declining imperial power of Britain — the issue in one case being the continued presence of British troops, in the other the control of Iran's main export by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

Both had young monarchs, weak but ambitious, who were caught between the conflicting demands of the nationalist movement and of the great powers, and who sought to protect themselves by playing off rival wings of the nationalist movement against each other. In both cases the nationalist movement was divided between a secular current, supported by the communists, and an Islamic one whose fringes, at least, were addicted to political assassination.

In both cases the crisis was eventually resolved by the intervention of the armed forces, who were assumed by many people in the area to have been put up to it by the CIA with a view to replacing British influence by that of the United States. The suspicions, as it turned out, were better founded in the Iranian case than in the Egyptian one.

Kermit Roosevelt, the CIA official who has now admitted, nay boasted of, his part in overthrowing Mosaddeq in 1953, also cultivated close relations with Nasser, but Nasser, unlike the Shah and his generals, was not willing to base his foreign policy on a close alliance with the United States. He did indeed, like the Shah, suppress the old nationalist parties, both leftist and Islamic, but unlike the Shah he was able to assume their mantle because he stood up to the West. By nationalizing the Suez Canal he made himself the equivalent not of the Shah but of Mosaddeq — only a much younger Mosaddeq, in uniform and in power.

Heikal does not draw this parallel explicitly, but when one tries to distil an underlying message from the wealth of sparkling anecdote, sharp observation and graphic description, one soon realizes that Iran's tragedy, in Heikal's eyes, is that it lacked a Nasser. Heikal is fascinated by Khomeini, but lucid enough to realize that Khomeini is not the leader of the modernizing nationalist revolution that he, Heikal, believes in. Khomeini's role is, in the last resort, a historical aberration — the result of 25 years' suppression of what Mosaddeq stood for. If Iran had had a Nasser, it would not have needed a Khomeini.

The corollary is that if Egypt ever has a Shah, that is a ruler who aligns himself closely with the United States and sets about reversing and suppressing everything Nasser stood for, it will sooner or later find an Egyptian equivalent of Khomeini. No doubt Heikal, as he wrote this book, was acutely aware of that side of the equation. It is unlikely that the book was the primary reason for his arrest, but Sadat would have been right to regard its message for Egypt as deeply disquieting.

Mohamed Heikal: a force in Egypt's power struggle.

The Return of the Ayatollah by Mohamed Heikal (Andre Deutsch, £9.95)

THE TIMES DIARY

Lord Rawlinson, the former attorney-general, would appear to be especially popular among Fleet Street editors. I hear that both Sir John Junor, editor of the Sunday Express, and Mr David English, editor of the Daily Mail, *sought to retain the peer to represent them in their forthcoming appearance in the High Court. Both are accused of contempt of court over articles they published during the trial of Dr Leonard Arthur, who was eventually acquitted of the attempted murder of a Down's Syndrome baby. On this occasion the* Mail *pipped the* Express, *and Sir John will now be represented by Robert Alexander, the QC who defended the cricketing authorities when Kerry Packer and three players, John Snow, Tony Greig and Michael Proctor, brought an action against their banning.*

A new man to reform the dustbins

Mr David Jenkins, a lecturer in criminology at the University of Edinburgh, is to be the new director of the Howard League for Penal Reform. He follows Mr Martin Wright, who is leaving to study for a Ph D at the London School of Economics.

Mr Jenkins, who is 32 and just finishing *his* Ph D, at the LSE, starts work on January 1 and one of the first things he will have to consider is a change of name, and direction, for the league. The aim now is to broaden it to examine not just prison reform but the rest of the criminal justice system as well. Louis Blom-Cooper, a member of the league's council, who rang me yesterday with this information, would like readers of *The Times* to suggest a new name for the league.

One possibility, however, is to go back to the original name — the Howard Association. This was what the organization was called when it was created in 1866; it did not take on its present handle until 1921 when it merged with the League for Penal Reform. Under Jenkins the league, or whatever it decides to call itself, will concentrate more on alternatives to prison, research on whether we need a national prosecuting system and how to keep offenders out of gaol in the first place.

Jenkins, who was selected from a short-list of nine (including senior members of the prison service), is chiefly known for the way he straightened out Ellison House, an adult probation hostel in south London. When he arrived, its probationers were notorious for their regular appearances before the courts. In six months he was warden of the hostel and the men in it had become more settled.

Yankee knowhow

One hopes that Mr William Clark, the US Deputy Secretary of State who flies to London today at the start of a European tour that will include Ireland and West Germany, will know whose hand he is shaking when he is received in Downing Street or the Foreign Office.

During his confirmation hearings last February Mr Clark, a former California Supreme Court judge and a close crony of the President, displayed a splendid ignorance on almost all matters involving foreign affairs. "Do you know the name of the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, or of South Africa?" he was asked. "What do you think about Israeli settlements on the West Bank? Should the United States recognize Taiwan? What are your views on nuclear non-proliferation?" To all of these questions, you may remember, Mr Clark lamely responded: "I do not have a personal view" or "I do not have a position on the point."

Despite his evident ignorance of foreign affairs, the senate overwhelmingly confirmed his appointment because, as Senator Charles Percy, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, put it: "The President has told me how much he wants Bill Clark for this job." Reagan, it was darkly rumoured at the time, wanted Clark in the State Department in order to keep an eye on Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State — the "unguided missile" of the Reagan administration.

Clark, who dropped out of college and law school, was also confirmed because his administrative talents are well known. As he explained at the time, he had been hired to run the foreign service and he could learn about policy while on the job.

Since then Clark has by all accounts been assiduous in doing his homework. When he headed a delegation to southern Africa several months ago, he showed that he not only knew Piet Botha's name but had also mastered the intricacies of the Namibian negotiations. One hopes he has also done the same with Northern Ireland.

Common touch

I am told that the most common names for ugly sisters in pantomime this year are "Tina" and "Tiara". Can anyone confirm this?

(Incidentally, this item was written from beginning to end without a tea-break.)

Prayer meeting

Prayer is not, in my experience, one of the more popular topics of conversation at meal or any other times. So I was agreeably surprised the other night in the officers' mess with the Welsh Guards in St James's Palace (they are the Windsor Castle guard for this month), when the conversation turned to a consideration of wit in prayer. One contribution, which is not new but was to me, is the London bus conductor's prayer:

Our father, Which art in Hendon,
Harrow be thy name,
Thy Kingston come, Thy Wimbledon,
In Erith as it is in Hendon,
Give us this day our Berkhamsted,
And forgive us our Westminsters,
As we forgive them that Westminster against us.
For thine is the Kingston, the Purley and Crawley,
For Iver and Iver, Crouch End.

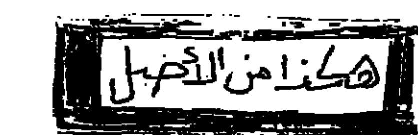
My contribution was the Miser's Prayer, written by John Ward of Hackney who was expelled from the House of Commons in 1727. This reads: "O Lord, thou knowest that I have nine estates in the City of London, and likewise that I have lately purchased one estate in fee simple in the county of Essex; I beseech thee to preserve the two counties of Middlesex and Essex from fire and earthquakes; and as I have a mortgage in Hertfordshire, I beg of Thee likewise to have an eye of compassion on that county; and for the rest of the counties Thou mayst deal with them as Thou art pleased.

"O Lord, enable the Bank to answer their bills, and make all my debtors good men. Give a prosperous voyage and return to the Mermaid sloop, because I have insured it; and as Thou hast said the days of the wicked are but short, I trust in Thee that Thou wilt not forget Thy promise, as I have purchased an estate in reversion, which will be mine on the death of that profligate young man, Sir J. L. . . ."

One of the young officers (like the others, resplendent in scarlet jacket) topped it with the story of Morris Davie of British Columbia. Davie, who had been accused of starting a forest fire, was initially acquitted because the prosecution's case against him depended on a prayer he had uttered, and which had been overheard by a policeman. Davie had dropped to his knees, raised his hands and said: "Oh God, please let me get away with it, just this once."

His lawyer had claimed this conversation was a privileged communication, meant to be heard by God, not the police. Initially the judge had agreed and acquitted him but an appeal court overturned the decision, deciding that God was not legally a "person".

Peter Watson



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WANTED: EUROPEAN VISION

Britain and Greece are the only members of the European Community in which the fact of membership is still a major political issue. For Britain this means that while the politicians of other member states must cope with grumbles about how the Community works, and with demands to defend more vigorously their national interests, British politicians are forced into taking up more fundamental positions on one side or other of the barricades.

This colours Britain's whole relationship with the Community. It keeps alive doubts about Britain among Europeans, and it hampers rational debate about Europe among Britons. It also puts the British government unnecessarily on the defensive. In the Commons on Monday Mrs Thatcher admitted her disappointment at the failure of last week's summit. But she seemed to feel obliged to put a rather better gloss on it than it deserved, and under questioning she was pushed into talking more about the safeguarding of national interests than about creative ideas for the future.

It is, of course, in her nature to do that. She does not feel the inspiration of the European Community in her bones. She accepts it intellectually, and politically she has not done badly out of it. Her fight to reduce the British contribution was a triumph though it cost her some frayed tempers in the Community. What she says about the Community is mostly sound: in the Commons she balanced her remarks about each nation fighting its own corner with several nods towards the basic common interests of members. But her character is essentially insular, and her concerns primarily domestic. When this is reinforced by the political pressures of Labour opposition and public scepticism it goes some way towards explaining why Britain's half-year in the European chair will end inconclusively unless the foreign ministers pull agreement out of a hat before Christmas.

It is easy to make excuses. The Community moves slowly at the best of times, and is now confronting some particularly difficult conflicts of national interest. This year it has been further delayed by the French election. Yet Britain could have offered more push and more vision if its internal politics had been less cramped. If someone with vision does not soon lift the debate out of its slough, public disaffection is likely to spread. Already the West Germans are becoming understandably sourer about the huge budgetary burden which now falls upon them; and if the balance is redressed it will be someone else's turn to complain.

The basic trouble for public opinion — and not just in Britain — is that so much of what the Community does defies common sense, even when it seems to protect national interests. For instance, anyone can see that if one of the purposes of the Community is take a bit from the rich and give a bit to the poor it is wholly absurd that revenue should be raised through the vagaries of an out-of-date agricultural policy which, in some cases benefits the rich and penalizes the poor.

Of course the solutions are technically and politically difficult but unless the Community begins soon to show more signs of shaking itself out of its ingrained habits of thought and procedure it is going to look increasingly out of touch with reality. This is, after all, a relatively propitious moment. Rising world food prices have reduced the cost of Community subsidies and made Britain's contribution even lower than expected. The general atmosphere is relatively good. National passions are relatively quiescent. Yet instead of this opening the way to movement it seems to have taken some of the urgency out of the pressure for reform.

While the foreign ministers continue their efforts, Mrs Thatcher could still make a useful contribution by moving more rapidly towards joining the EMS. The excuse that the pound is now a petro-currency is not valid. Nor is she right if she thinks she can bargain British membership for French concessions on agriculture. Beyond that, even after Britain relinquishes the chair to Belgium at the end of the month she can still take a more creative attitude towards reform. It might even be useful to the government in domestic politics — more useful than the excuses and delays which in effect give the Government a weary air.

WANTED: A PLAN FOR SKILLED PEOPLE

Later this month the new employment secretary, Mr. Norman Tebbit will make his long awaited policy statement on new training initiatives. He should not shirk it. Never in the last fifty years has there been quite the same opportunity to go for bold and imaginative departure. Nor has there ever been quite the need.

Even at the best of times it has been clear that Britain has lagged dispiritingly behind Germany and our main European competitors in the standards and coverage of its basic employment training. The latest study published by the National Institute of Social and Economic Research has merely confirmed what has been apparent to most observers of Britain's industrial decline for several generations - that Germany's insistence that nearly all school leavers receive vocational training has helped put it far ahead of this country in terms of its technical skills and productivity. On the National Institute's figures, while 60 per cent of German workers have skilled qualifications, fewer than 30 per cent of British workers have the equivalent of apprenticeships or City and Guilds certificates. Some two-thirds of British workers have no vocational qualifications at all compared with a third in Germany.

As the recession has deepened, Britain's ramshackle structure of apprenticeships and training is actually getting worse. The numbers of youngsters recruited for craft and technician training in the engineering industry is the lowest since records began 15 years ago. Despite all the efforts of the Manpower Services Commission, it is still training that has proved to be one of the greatest victims of industry's straightened financial circumstances, while the general political atmosphere has hardly been improved by the Government's decision to abolish 17 of the statutory industrial training boards and to throw financing of the remainder back on industry's voluntary shoulder.

It is still not too late to start anew. If the apprenticeship system is collapsing, this could have its benefits. Even the Germans with a highly-structured system of training are finding it difficult to cope with the flexibility of skills demanded by the newer technologies. The British apprenticeship system has long suffered both from its reliance on the willingness of individual firms to train employees who might then leave them and from the unions' reluctance to change old traditions of duration and entry requirements. New demands can now be met by new approaches. The political climate is right in that the Government has now committed itself to major expenditure to meet the problems of unemployed school leavers. Few even among the most hardened backbenchers would dispute that this is better spent on training for the future than simply subsidizing jobs. Even the unions seem more willing than in the past to accept new training patterns so long as there is a government commitment behind them.

The foundation for a radical new programme is there in the individual initiatives of the Manpower Services Commission and the broader strategy of its paper "A new Training Initiative." In particular the Government should now aim to provide all school leavers with some form of intermediate training. It should expand the present small-scale unified vocational preparational training, for those finding jobs, not at the paltry pace of universal coverage by 1990 but by 1985 at the latest with a preference towards one-year traineeships. And this should be unified with the training provided under the Youth Opportunities Programme. At the same time, opportunities for retraining and further training should be opened up for adults of whatever age, particularly those made redundant, through the expansion of skills centres, in-house courses and the Open Tech courses.

What the Germans, French and Swiss and others have shown is that only government action can achieve such objectives. It does not have to do the training itself. It can, if it prefers, impose an inescapable legal requirement on the employer, refunding at least part of the cost, and it can stimulate new intiatives through, say, regionally-based bodies. But act it must. Two things can frustrate the best hopes: the unions, and political timidity. The unions are unhappy at the idea of a training wage. The fear of cheap labour is short-sighted but understandable; unless we are less intelligent and sincere than the Europeans it should be possible to devise a scheme which is viable and also has sensible safeguards against exploitation. The political will depends on Mr Tebbit.

EQUAL TIME FOR EQUAL CHANCES

The Social Democrats have at least won the right to put their case for a fair share of broadcasting time to the Committee on Party Political Broadcasting.. This is the committee composed of representatives from the five other political parties and the broadcasting authorities. It determines the allocation of party election broadcasts and of party political broadcasts between elections.

It is usually concerned with issues of only relatively minor importance because the basic rules were laid down long ago. But these rules are founded on the principle that broadcasting time should be allotted according to the number of votes cast for each party at the previous general election, with a provision to ensure that a party fielding a minimum of fifty candidates does not go without a broadcast of its own. This broad framework, within which the precise arrangements could be hammered out each time, was appropriate enough at a time of political stability when the essential question at each election was which of the two main parties would form the next government. There were reasonable doubts even then as to whether such a system was fair to the Liberals, or sometimes to the Nationalist parties. But it was not manifestly absurd.

All the indications are, however, that it would be an example of legalistic pedantry at its worst to fix the broadcasting rules for the next election according to how the votes were cast last time. There was no such thing as a Social Democratic Party in 1979, so it would be impossible to judge its claim to broadcasting time at the next election by its failure to win any votes at the last one. The present evidence, according to by-elections as well as opinion polls, suggests that the next election will be essentially a three-horse race between Conservative, Labour and Alliance candidates. That is the political reality which ought to be reflected in the broadcasting arrangements.

The best way to do this would be for the governing principle to be the number of candidates that each party, or group, is putting into the field. If the Alliance manages to fight the election as a single entity it should be treated as a single party. This would provide broadly equal conditions for political armies of equal size. The obvious objection that will be raised is that this would enable unrepresentative parties, which have failed over the years to capture any significant public support, to win a disproportionate share of broadcasting time simply by putting a large number of certain losers into the field. The National Front would be the most likely beneficiary.

This would in fact be a small price to pay for fair electoral conditions. But there is one reasonable safeguard that could be applied. It should be made more difficult for parties with little public support to field a large number of candidates. We have already argued that to deter cranks the number of voters in the relevant constituency required to sign a candidate's nomination form should be increased from the present derisory figure of ten to 500 or even 1,000. At the same time it would be sensible to raise the deposit that each candidate has to put down. A drastic increase would put an unfair strain on potentially popular but poor parties, but that still leaves room to put up the level from £150 at which it has stood since 1918. That would be £1,500 at today's values. A figure of £500 would be easily bearable.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour's way out of Europe

From Sir Anthony Meyer, MP for Flint West (Conservative)

Sir, The more we learn of the Labour Party's plans for withdrawal from the EEC, the more unrealistic they are seen to be. On December 1 we had Mr Eric Heffer admitting, in your columns, that "Since Britain joined the EEC the pattern of our trade has changed. The old Commonwealth preferences have gone for ever", and then going on to maintain that "It is therefore of great importance that when we do withdraw, an agreement with the other EEC countries is negotiated and associate status agreed. In that way we could continue to develop trade with the EEC but without the barriers against the outside world which exist today because of EEC membership".

In fact, of course, if Britain withdraws from the EEC it is virtually impossible that we shall be able to negotiate associate status. Let us however, assume the impossible for arguments sake. In that case we would be bound by the trading rules of the EEC, but without being able to exert any influence to change them. How would that improve matters for us?

What would happen if we did withdraw would be that the other EEC countries, so far from showing us any favour, would be bound to refuse any concessions to us for fear that others might follow our example. We would lose our present tariff-free access to our largest export market; and we would have to fight the EEC for markets in the rest of the world.

Mr Heffer does not even pose the two key questions. If British industry cannot hold its own in the guaranteed free market of the EEC, how is it going to compete in the much rougher world market? Perhaps by selling car kits to Iran? And, once we have demonstrated our unreliability by bolting out of the EEC, just who is going to conclude any kind of firm agreement with us?

Until Mr Heffer provides some kind of answers to these questions it is impossible to take him seriously as Labour's front bench spokesman on the EEC.

I am, etc,
ANTHONY MEYER,
Vice-Chairman, Conservative European Affairs Committee,
House of Commons.
December 1.

From Lord Chelwood

Sir, Mr Heffer is right: a Marxist Britain could not belong to the European Community. But would the Kremlin welcome another Romania in the Warsaw block?

Yours sincerely,
CHELWOOD,
House of Lords.
December 1.

Women's rights

From Mrs Mary Stott and Mrs Georgina Ashworth

Sir, As Human Rights Day, December 10, approaches we should like to draw readers' attention to a human rights instrument that has not yet been ratified by the British Government. The "Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women" was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December, 1979, and was open for signature and ratification six months later.

The British Government signed in July this year, but the significant act is ratification. Election to the monitoring committee will be on March 3 next year, for 28 states have become party to the convention, bringing it into force. Responsibility for ratification lies with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in consultation with other departments of government.

The convention notes, not a little sadly, that despite other international instruments, including the Declaration of Human Rights, "extensive discrimination against women continues to exist". It would be fitting that the United Kingdom Government, led by a woman Prime Minister, should ratify this instrument on the date when all victims of exploitation, discrimination, degradation, oppression and persecution are remembered: Human Rights Day.

Yours sincerely,
MARY STOTT, Chairman,
G. ASHWORTH, Convener,
International Committee,
The Fawcett Society,
25 Wilton Road,
SW1

Paisley and Ulster

From Mr K. N. McGill

Sir, Miss Dervla Murphy (November 28) finds it tempting to dismiss Ian Paisley as a half-crazed buffoon because he has succumbed to the temptation to call Mrs Thatcher a liar and a traitor.

But there is nothing personal about these courtesies. A few years ago you yourself described Mr Paisley as "the Rev Dr" although the only formal qualification he held was a diploma from Ballymena Tech.

He is someone who has beaten the system which treated and still treats his people with contempt; he and Rory O'Brady of the IEA are brothers under the skin. Paisley believes that God is with him and O'Brady believes that history will absolve him.

To beat this sort of brew requires more than adding a shriller element to the contempt. Anyway, Paisley's flock know that person-to-person, away from the arena, he is a caring minister even if his training was unorthodox.

Yours etc,
K. N. McGILL,
Granite Hills,
Grange Walk,
Faversham,
Kent.

Scarman and positive discrimination

From the Reverend Harry Potter

Sir, One of the commonest criticisms of the Scarman report is that it takes no account of, and indeed denies the existence of, institutional racism in this country. Its existence is debatable; what is not open to doubt is that many people believe it exists, and this is a major stumbling block to getting blacks to put their faith in, or participate in, the normal procedures for social advance. If people have no trust in our organs of government, or education, or law, if they doubt that white judges and an all-white Parliament will really represent their interests or enact equitable laws, or that a white police force will administer the law justly, then their fears and frustrations may be channelled into violence.

Lord Scarman has already urged that the police make all efforts to recruit officers from ethnic minority groups. Imperial College have said that they will make allowance for the poorer educational attainments of children from deprived areas. This is the sort of "positive discrimination" which most universities make for mature students, and which Oxbridge colleges carry out for candidates from comprehensive schools who are often admitted on A-level results and interview without sitting the entrance exam for which their schools are ill-equipped to prepare them. The final degree standard remains the same for all. Allowance is made for those with ability but who have suffered some relative educational disadvantage.

So far so good. It is most important, however, that the political parties make an effort to prove their commitment to racial justice. First of all they could nominate several black or Asian peers for the New Year's Honours List. This would be an immediate and direct way of showing that we wish to allow blacks to participate in the political structures of our country.

Secondly, all the parties could nominate an appreciable number of black candidates for the next general election. In both these actions the major parties would be working together, sharing the possible political approbrium and demonstrating a concerted determination to get something done.

This would go a long way to restore or enhance the confidence of the ethnic minorities in our political institutions; it would demonstrate dramatically that their commitment to racial harmony and equality was more than mere lip service and it would give the lie to the belief that our institutions are racist.

If our police force and schools, our legal and government organs can prove that they are instruments for the fair advancement of all, then we may go a long way to preventing rioting in the streets or the equally dispiriting apathetic nihilism of so many of our young people.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY POTTER,
6 Walnut House,
Clyde Street,
Deptford, SE8.
November 28.

From Mr F. I. M. Ryan

Sir, The Scarman report makes some criticism of the police and certainly none of us is perfect, but the British police force has for long been the envy of the world and the pride of the British people, not only for its efficiency, calm courage and resourcefulness, but particularly also for its friendly helpfulness and its patience and good-humoured tolerance at all times.

Whereas to strike a policeman or even to resist arrest was rare and to the average citizen in Britain unthinkable in recent years, police battles have almost become a feature of life in some of the big cities and this is something for which the public and not the police should be thoroughly ashamed.

Of course the police must not be biased against one section of the community, but if in the daily experience of their duty they actually find that one section of the community is responsible for by far the highest percentage of the violent crime in a particular area their search for culprits is bound to lead them towards that section in making their investigations.

If an Englishman chooses to live in another country in Europe, Africa, Asia or elsewhere he must respect the laws of that country or take the consequences and so indeed must it be with those who visit our shores and wish to take up residence in our beautiful and richly privileged country with the many blessings of our traditional way of life which we treasure and do not wish to see tarnished.

With all its shortcomings it may safely be said that nowhere in the world is the law more careful to preserve the freedom and dignity of the individual than in Britain, but our traditional respect for the law and for those appointed to enforce it must be jealously guarded.

Any show of violence against the police is a very serious crime indeed, calling for a very severe penalty, for only when laws are respected can the liberty of the individual be upheld and maintained and this is doubly important at a time when fifth-column elements are being systematically planted in troubled areas for the specific purpose of fomenting strife for political ends which, if successful, would incidentally replace all freedom with oppression.

Yours sincerely,
H. I. F. RYAN,
The Old Rectory,
Letcombe Bassett,
Wantage,
Oxfordshire.
November 27.

From Councillor Trevor Brown

Sir, It is a great pity that Lord Scarman has failed to take the opportunity to make a major step forward in the democratic control of the police. He identified a damaging isolation of the police from the public and the need to have a greater independent element in dealing with complaints against officers.

Both of these aspects are dealt with reasonably satisfactorly in all other areas of local government by the full involvement of elected representatives. The simple solution is therefore to give elected representatives the same role in the management of the police as they have in roads, education, fire-fighting, social services and other aspects of our community life, instead of the ineffectual role they are currently permitted to play in police authorities.

It is sometimes said that a police officer could not control a riot while taking advice from a councillor standing behind him. But councillors do not stand behind teachers dealing with an unruly class, or fire chiefs tackling a difficult fire. Councillors do, however, decide policy and guidelines and institute inquiries when necessary.

At a time when all parties are pressing for the strengthening of local government, it would have been helpful if the Scarman report had done the same.

Yours etc,
TREVOR BROWN,
2 The Glade,
Newbury,
Berkshire.

Law on secret ballots

From Mr I. S. Westley and others

Sir, The Secretary for Employment must now commit himself to legislative options open to him. We write to persuade him to de-commit himself from today's statement of intent in the House of Commons (Parliamentary Report, November 24), largely motivated by the Crosby by-election, and to confine his Bill to making compulsory the election of all trade union executives by secret postal ballot from the shop-floor stewards upwards, and the ballot to be funded, if so requested, by the Government.

This is a measure which is impeccably democratic and one which the majority of the people of our country would wholeheartedly support and certainly not regard as a policy of confrontation with the unions.

Significantly the broad left and the left wing of the Labour Party await in high expectation of Mr Tebbit succumbing to right-wing Tory pressure for legislation along the lines of today's statement. Even more significant than the broad left's relish for such a policy of confrontation is the fact that they fear the secret ballot like Dracula does the crucifix.

In making his decision Mr Tebbit must keep in mind that the secret ballot would eliminate the cynical exploitation of the anti-democratic aspects of the block-vote system and make effective the real opinion of the rank and file, thereby releasing a force, hitherto mainly unharnessed, based on their common sense and their true interest.

As active trade unionists, but writing in a personal capacity, we urge members of all parties to put pressure on the Minister to give secret ballots top priority.

Yours faithfully,
I. S. WESTLEY (Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Engineering Section),
M. A. OGIER (Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff),
S. J. NICHOLS (Society of Civil and Public Servants),
S. T. COTTINGHAM (Association of Scientific Technical and Managerial Staffs),
W. J. STAFF (Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians),
JEFF DAVIS (National Union of Students),
J. BEASLEY (National and Local Government Officers' Association),
PETER ARNOTT (Civil and Public Services Association),
9 Daleway,
Sawston,
Cambridge.
November 23

Wheelchairs in cinemas

From Miss R. M. Shearman

Sir, Your correspondent, Derek Hayward (November 28) may like to know that there is an excellent booklet, *London for the Disabled Visitor*, available at newsagents which contains much detailed information on facilities such as access, etc, including cinemas and theatres. Another very useful publication is *British Rail - Guide for the Disabled*, published by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, which contains access arrangements for numerous railway stations throughout the country.

Mr Hayward should not despair. I am aged 19 and confined to a wheelchair and am finding an increasing awareness of the problems during the International Year of the Disabled. British Rail staff and London taxi drivers are most helpful and in response to an appeal from my family British Telecom recently reduced the height of a public telephone at Kings Cross station.

Yours faithfully,
R. SHEARMAN.
Bracken Hill,
Queen Hoo Lane,
Tewin, Hertfordshire.
November 29.

Memorial trust for Lord Boyle

From Dame Janet Baker and others

Sir, Since the death of Lord Boyle moving tributes have been paid to his record of public service, his wide scholarly interests and human sympathies, and his modesty, kindness and courage. Many of his admirers in academic and public life have suggested that his work should be honoured in a permanent fashion.

Lord Boyle spent 11 years as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds, years which he described as his happiest and most fulfilling. He had immersed himself in the university and all its concerns; and it seemed meet and right that the university, together with friends connected with different spheres of his life and career, should take the initiative in establishing the Edward Boyle Memorial Trust. The Chancellor of the university, HRH the Duchess of Kent, will be its patron; and the proposal has received the warm approval of Lord Boyle's sister, Mrs Jack Gold.

The fund will be devoted to the advancement of education, learning and music. Among the objects immediately in mind are scholarships, covering part of the very high fees now levied, for overseas students of distinction who could not otherwise come to British universities. Lord Boyle cared deeply about Britain's overseas connections, especially those with Commonwealth countries.

The trust will provide assistance to the study of music, especially in that department at the University of Leeds; and will also support a concert of high distinction, commemorating Lord Boyle's chairmanship of the jury at the Leeds International Piano Competition. We give these as examples; the trustees will support other initiatives, especially those which will forward the many causes with which Lord Boyle was strongly identified.

May we ask all your readers who value Lord Boyle's example to contribute generously? The trust will have charitable status, and gifts by covenant would be particularly appreciated. Contributions should be made payable to the "The Edward Boyle Memorial Trust" and should be sent to the Office of the Acting Vice-Chancellor, the University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

Yours faithfully
JANET BAKER, HOME,
WILLIAM BULMER, MICHAEL JAFFE,
PATRICK CROTTY, ROY JENKINS,
FRED DAINTON, HAROLD MacMILLAN,
GLADWYN, ALBERT SLOMAN,
ANN GOLD, WILLIAM TWEDDLE,
RICHARD B. GRAHAM, G. J. WARNOCK,
JOHN GRIGG, WILLIAM WALSH,
EDWARD HEATH, FANNY WATERMAN,
F. H. HINSLEY, HAROLD WILSON,
The University of Leeds.
November 26.

Romney Marsh

From Mr D.H.L. Hopkinson

Sir, From Mr Nightingale's letter (Nov. 28) it might be assumed that all the churches on Romney Marsh are in Kent and the Diocese of Canterbury. In fact the thriving parish of Camber and the medieval marsh church of East Guldeford are both in East Sussex and Diocese of Chichester. We are proud that we have been able to maintain worship and the marvellous building at East Guldeford despite the small population.

All Sussex men have known for centuries that we conduct our affairs and cricket better than Kent. Would the Romney Marsh parishes like to come over now into the Diocese of Chichester?

Yours faithfully,
D.H.L HOPKINSON,
Chairman, Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance,
St John's Priory,
Poling,
Arundel,
Sussex.
November 29.

The Bulldog's grip

From Mr Christopher Godfrey

Sir, Colonel Capadose's appraisal of the Bulldog wheel clamp (November 30) seems to ignore one obvious consideration.

There cannot be many countries in the world where, to prevent a car causing an obstruction, a device is attached that ensures the obstruction will continue for the rest of the day. You might as well cure traffic jams by building barricades every morning and taking them down several hours later,

Yours faithfully,
C. GODFREY,
159 Lee High Road, SE13.

SDP philosophy

From Mr Kenneth Moir

Sir, The SDP has been criticised for its lack of policies. Perhaps that is its strength. Recent events seem to indicate that the voters prefer pragmatism to dogmatism.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MOIR,
45 Breamwater Gardens,
Ham,
Richmond,
Surrey.
November 29.

Matrimonial burdens

From Mr Robert Hargreaves

Sir, I am surprised no one has yet pointed out the implications of these findings for the divorce courts. Deprived of a wife's services valued at £204 a week, should not deserted husbands now be able to claim this sum as part of *their* maintenance in order to pay for a replacement?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARGREAVES,
17 Kitson Road, SW13.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 1: The Queen, Chief Patron, and The Duke of Edinburgh, and The Prince and Princess of Wales, this morning at Buckingham Palace handed over cars to disabled people in the Motability Scheme (Chairman, the Lord Goodman).

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, this afternoon attended a Reception at Buckingham Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The Prince of Wales, Joint Patron, this afternoon visited the Great Japan Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were entertained at dinner this evening by the Right Hon the Speaker at Speaker's House.

The Hon Edward Adeane and Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith were in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this evening attended the annual dinner of the Gloucestershire branch of the Royal College of Midwives (Chairman, Miss M. J. Twemlow) at Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham.

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Mrs John Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE

December 1: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited Chigwell School, Chigwell, Essex, and opened the new Practical Arts Centre.

The Lady Elizabeth Basset and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

The Lady Jean Rankin has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 1: The Duke of Gloucester as Grand Prior was present this afternoon at the Grand Prior's Trophy Competitions of the St John Ambulance at West Centre Hotel and presented the awards to the winning teams.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester as Patron this evening visited the Notting Hill Housing Trust's Annual Christmas Fair at Kensington Town Hall, London.

The Hon Mrs Munro was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 1: The Duchess of Kent today visited British Aerospace at Holme-on-Spalding Moor and opened the new Machine Shop at Brough.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Mrs Alan Henderson.

Reception

Royal College of Nursing

Mrs M. Morgan, President of the Royal College of Nursing, last night gave a reception at 20 Cavendish Square when Lord Brabourne unveiled a plaque to mark the restoration of the painted staircase in memory of his mother, Doreen, Lady Brabourne, a vice-president of the college. Countess Mountbatten of Burma, Lord Romsey, vice presidents, honorary officers and friends of the college were also present.

Luncheons

HM Government

The Hon George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at Dover House, Whitehall, on the occasion of the visit to London of the Right Rev Andrew B. Doig, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Foreign Press Association in London

The Queen of Denmark and the Prince of Denmark were guests of honour at a luncheon given yesterday at 11 Carlton House Terrace by the Foreign Press Association. The host was Mr Claus Toksvig, president of the association. The Danish Ambassador was also present.

Canning House

The Director-General of the Hispanic and Luso Brazilian Council, Mr S. M. Mackenzie, was host at a luncheon given yesterday at 2 Belgrave Square in honour of the Foreign Minister of Brazil, Senor Rameiro E. S. Guerreiro. The guests included the Brazilian Ambassador, members of the Brazilian Embassy, members of the council and of the Latin American Trade Advisory Group.

Dinners

Speaker

The Prince and Princess of Wales were present at a dinner given by the Speaker yesterday in Speaker's House. Other guests were: The Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher, Mr Michael Foot, MP, and Mrs Foot, Mr Francis Pym, MP, and Mrs Pym, the Hon John Silkin, MP, and Mrs Silkin, Mr Edward du Cann, MP, and Mrs du Cann, Mr David Steel, MP, Mr Michael Jopling, MP, and Mrs Jopling, Mr Michael Cocks, MP, and Mrs Cocks, Mr John Peyton, MP, and Mrs Peyton, Mr Donald Stewart, MP, and Mrs Stewart, Mr Nicholas Edwards, MP, and Mrs Edwards, Mr James Molyneaux, MP, Mr Alec Jones, MP, and Mrs Jones, Mr Bryant Godman Irvine, MP, and Mrs Godman Irvine, Mr Barry Jones, MP, and Mrs Jones, Mr Charles Irving, MP, and Sir Noel and Lady Short.

City Livery Yacht Club

The City Livery Yacht Club held the twenty-fifth laying-up dinner at Sion College last night. The Commodore, Lt-Colonel Leslie S. Davis, presided assisted by Mrs Davis and other flag officers. Mr T. H. Blennerhassett, vice-commodore, Rear-Admiral Richard C. A. Fitch, naval secretary, and Mr Graham R. Dowson, Commodore of the Royal London Yacht Club also spoke. Sir Robin Gillett presented the Founder Commodore Trophy to Mr Ronald R. Elliott and the Watts Thames Trophy to Mr Dennis J. Graham. Among the guests were: The Deputy Master of Trinity House, the Master of the Master Mariners' Company, and the President of the City Livery Club.

Weavers' Company

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs were present last night at the livery dinner of the Weavers' Company held at Vintners' Hall. The Upper Bailiff, Mr C. M. Wigan, and other officers received the guests. The Lord Mayor, the Upper Bailiff, the Upper Warden, Mr S. J. Sebire, and Mr Norman St John-Stevas, MP, were the speakers.

Strafford Club

The Strafford Club met for dinner on Monday night at Trinity College, Cambridge. Lord William Taylour, president, was in the chair and the guest of honour was the Rev Julian Browning.

Society of London Golf Captains

The annual dinner of the Society of London Golf Captains was held at the Connaught Rooms last night. Dr A. S. Crockett, chairman and captain, presided. The guest of honour was Mr Hugh Neill, Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. The other speakers were Mr R. A. Lang and Mr John Wild.

Memorial service

Miss J. Matthews

The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr Michael Collon at the service of thanksgiving for the life of Miss Jessie Matthews held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Rev John Arrowsmith officiated assisted by the Rev Michael Hurst-Bannister (Actors' Church Union). Mr Charles Simon read a passage from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and Dame Anna Neagle read a prayer by Father Bede Jarrett. Mr Barrie Stacey gave an address and Miss Audrey Leybourne sang "Where is Love" from *Oliver* by Mr Lionel Bart. Among others present were:

Countess Grixoni (daughter), Mr Martin Grixoni and Miss Jessica Grixoni (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Harry Matthews (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs R Gallelly (sister), Miss Nancy Matthews, Mr Brian Matthews, Mrs G Coleman, Mr Andrew Coleman, Miss Elaine Coleman, Mrs J McDaniels, Gina and Lee McDaniels.

Lord Elwyn-Jones, CH, and Lady Elwyn-Jones, Sir John and Lady Woolf, Mr Bernard Price, Mr Michael Thornton, Miss Dorothy Dickson, Mr Vincent Shaw, Mr Anthony Bowles, Rev Mother Carmel, Sister Simes, Mr Eric Simes, Mr Lionel Bart, Mr Peter Saunders, Major-General R B Loudoun, Mr John Tydeman (representing the Director-General of the BBC and Mr Glyn Dearman (representing The Dale's production team, BBC), Mr Ellis Ashton (chairman, British Music Hall Society), Mr Bernard Baschwitz, Mr K Wlaschin (National Film Theatre and British Film Institute), Mr Noel Whitcomb, Miss Mavis Wright (Jessie Matthews Choreography Trophy), Mr Trafford Whitelock, Mrs W Bransby Williams, Mr John Penrose, Mr and Mrs Tony Mansell, Mr Brodrick Chinnery-Haldane, Miss Hero de Rance, Mrs Joe O'Gorman, Mr Courteney Kenny, Mr John Gale (Society of West End Theatre and Theatres National Committee), Miss Freda Steel, the Rev Norman Moorhouse, Mr Leslie Heritage, Mr Patrick Ludlow, Mr Peter Bennett (Council of British Actors Equity Association), Mrs George Cole, Miss A Carr (London Ballet Circle), Mr Brian Lowe and Mr Peter Willmore.

Birthdays today

Sir Frank Cooper, Permanent Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, who is 59.

The Hon Nigel Calder, 50; Sir Raphael Cilento, 88; Sir David Davies, 72; Dame Adelaide Doughty, 73; Sir Walter Edmenson, 89; General Alexander Haig, 57; Miss Patricia Hewitt, 33; Mr A. J. Huxley, 61; Mr Ian Finlay, 75; Sir Paul Grey, 73; Sir George Labouchere, 76.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

The Rev Kenneth Harold Pillar, vicar of Waltham Abbey and Rural Dean of Epping Forest, to be Suffragan Bishop of Hertford, in succession to the Right Rev Peter Mumford.

Mr David Jenkins to be Director of the Howard League for Penal Reform in succession to Mr Martin Wright, from January 1, 1982.

Inner Temple

The following scholarships and grants have been awarded:

Major scholarships

Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Scholarship of £3,000 S. J. A. Eyre, BA, BCL, New College, Oxford. Inner Temple scholarships of £2,000 C. R. Blackshaw, BA, Selwyn College, Cambridge, MA, Institute of European Studies, Brussels, and Miss Linda McDonald, LLB, Hull University; Inner Temple Scholarship of £1,500 Geoffrey Brown, BA, Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Law and Accommodation Grants and Benefactors' Scholarships

I. Fessal, LLB, Leeds University, £2,500 (including Ashworth Scholarship of £250), N. J. Hiorns, BA, Balliol College, Oxford, £2,500 (Yarborough-Anderson Scholarship of £500) A. C. Burr, BA, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, £2,050 (Neville Laski Scholarship of £150), M. Lyne, BA, Downing College, Cambridge, accommodation grant, a Basil Nield Scholarship of £250 and a Yarborough-Anderson Scholarship of £300, B. R. Stork, LLB, King's College London, accommodation grant, a Cecile Yahuda Scholarship of £250 and a Yarborough-Anderson Scholarship of £300, Miss C. M. Feder, LLB, Bristol University, £1,750, (Philip Teichman Scholarship of £150) Miss D. V. Oakes, BA, St John's College, Durham, £1,750, (Philip Teichman Scholarship of £150), R. G. N. Spencer, BA, Pembroke College, Cambridge, £1,750 (Profumo Scholarship of £100).

I D Leist, BA, of Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham, accommodation grant; Miss G E A Darley, LLB, King's College London, £1,400, (Profumo Scholarship of £100); C Donnellan, LLB, Queen's College, Oxford, £1,400, (Profumo Scholarship of £100), Miss L Higson-Smith, BA Selwyn College, Cambridge, £1,400, (Profumo Scholarship of £100); Miss S E Jacklin, BA, Van Mildert College, Durham, £1,400, (Geoffrey Veale Scholarship of £125); C J Judge, BA, Lanchester Polytechnic, £1,400, (Paul Methven Scholarship of £75); T J Lyons, LLB, Bristol University, £1,400, (Paul Methven Scholarship of £75); R J Mason, BA, Polytechnic of Central London, £1,400, (Paul Methven Scholarship of £75), Miss S Shackleford, BA, Bedford College, London, £1,400, (Michael Hodge Scholarship of £55); Miss M E Stubbs, BA, Bristol Polytechnic, £1,400, (Kenneth H. Solomon Prize of £20); S W Congdon, LLB, Merton College, Oxford, £1,000, (Forster Boulton Prize of £20); Miss G F McLeod, BSc, Brunel University, £1,000.

D. E. Manley, BA, of Leeds University, £1,000; D. R. Richards, LLB, Brunel University, £1,000; G. Robinson, LLB, Hull University, £1,000; S. R. Anderson, LLB, Leeds University, £750; Miss V. McEwan, BA, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, £750; Miss H. M. Singleton, BA, City of London Polytechnic, £750; L. Williams, BA, Liverpool Polytechnic, £750, T. Gallivan, BA, St Chad's College, Durham, LLB, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, a Frank and Burriss Gahan Scholarship of £550; P. K. Sloen, LLB, Queen Mary College, London, a Horace Avory Scholarship of £450; Miss A. Ioannou, LLB, Sheffield University, £500

500,000 are expected at papal visit to Coventry

The Pope will celebrate Mass before an expected 500,000 people at Coventry next summer from a specially constructed 15ft-high altar.

So huge are the crowds expected to be at Coventry Airport on Whit Sunday that a four-ward field hospital with about thirty beds and an operating theatre is to be set up. There will be 10 food marquees measuring 250ft by 40ft.

More than £650,000 is to be spent on buildings for the five-hour papal visit. Providing lavatories will cost £150,000.

People planning to see the Pope during his visit were urged yesterday not to be scared away by the idea of huge crowds. The appeal came from Mr Thomas Gavin, the Midlands coordinator of the visit who is organizing the gathering.

"We do not want people to be put off by the size of the crowds", he said. "There will be bags of room."

The crowd at the 366-acre airport is expected to begin building up 16 hours before the 10 am Mass, and thousands will spend the night in the open air.

Makers of Playing Cards Company

The following have been elected officers of the Makers of Playing Cards Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr S. B. Edell; Senior Warden, Mr J. G. B. Watson, MP; Junior Warden, Mr D. B. Maurice.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. J. L. Burger and Mrs S. J. F. Mudie

The engagement is announced between Raymond Burger and Sandra Mudie (née Brown), both of Esher, Surrey.

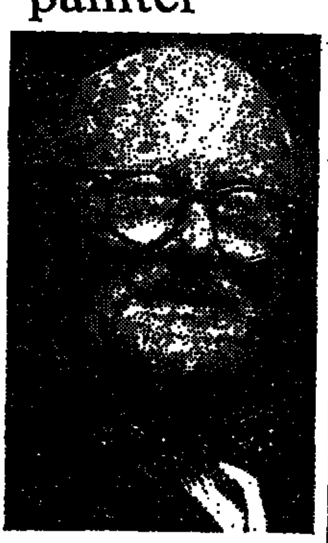
Mr N. P. Reynolds and Miss C. Rowntree

The engagement is announced between Nigel, only son of Mrs J. E. Reynolds, of Hampstead, London, and Mr J. M. Reynolds of Wick, West Sussex, and Clare, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs T. W. Rowntree, of Old Bursledon, Hants.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Alastair R. Ross was christened Alexandra Caroline Margaret by the Very Rev Dr John R. Gray in Dunblane Cathedral on Sunday, November, 22. The godparents are Captain and Mrs Mervyn Fox-Pitt.

City toasts Guinness painter



Mr John Gilroy (above), who is best known for the Guinness posters he designed from 1925 to 1960 (he introduced the "toucan" motif) is to be given the freedom of the City of London in a ceremony at Guildhall at noon today.

Mr Gilroy, who is 83, is also well known as a portrait painter. Among his sitters are most of the leading members of the Royal Family, also Mr Edward Heath, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone and Sir John Gielgud.

He painted several portraits of Lord Mountbatten of Burma, including the last painted of him, shortly before his death.

Many of Mr Gilroy's paintings are to be seen at the Garrick Club, of which he is a keen member. They include a scene of the club's annual outing to the Derby, with club servants dancing on the turf.

Lords Gallery in St John's Wood, north London, is planning an exhibition of the original Guinness posters.

Latest wills

Sir William Hugh Stobart Chance, of Birlingham, Pershore, Hereford and Worcester, a director of Chance Brothers from 1924 to 1964, left estate valued at £82,617 net.

Mr Henry Anderson, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £305,693 net. After personal bequests of more than £5,000 and charitable bequest of £52,000 he left the residue to Oxfam.

Margaret Primrose Thomson, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £45,700 net. She left all her property to the RNLI, for the Widows Fund.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Raban, Mr Thomas Baker, of Shefford, Bedfordshire...£276,445

Dolan, Sheila Elizabeth, of Wokingham, Berkshire ...£230,848

Wingfield, Mrs Juliet Constance, of Navan, county Meath, estate in England, Wales, and the Irish Republic......£247,619

Hairsine, Mr Charles William, of Kirk-Smeaton, West Yorkshire, intestate £431,830

Leonard, Mr Gilbert Arthur, of Scarborough, North Yorkshire £263,794

Mundy, Major E. P. G. M., of Chelsea, London £362,384

Old, Mr Frederick Gordon Guy, of St Endellion, Cornwall £209,508

David Richards, aged 12, and Simon Jones, aged 13, choirboys at St Paul's Cathedral, looking at the choir's latest album, "Music for the Royal Occasion at St Paul's", at its launch yesterday with the Dean of St Paul's and a member of the Honourable Artillery Company

RELIGIOUS TELEVISION AWARDS

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

An hour-long television profile of Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, was yesterday given the open award in the annual Sandford St Martin Trust competition for religious radio and television in the United Kingdom. The programme was made by Thames Television, producer Mr Robert Fleming, and shown on the Independent Television network in February.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, presented the award to Mr Fleming at Lambeth Palace. The trust, whose chairman is the Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Rev Colin James, has previously made only awards for radio programmes.

Runner-up in the open section was the BBC *Everyman* programme for its item on the visions of Garabandal, produced by Mr William Nicholson. Mr Fleming received £500 and Mr Nicholson £200. The current affairs prize was awarded to Mr Colin Cameron, producer of the "Heart of the Matter" item on the Irish hunger-strike, who receives £350. The best regional programme prize worth £200 was won by Scottish Television for a programme on attitudes to nuclear weapons in the Dunoon community.

The judges, headed by Sir Huw Wheldon, also made a special personal award of £100 to Mr Peter Armstrong, of the BBC, who is senior producer of religious television programmes.

After the presentation of prizes Dr Runcie said he believed the standard of religious broadcasting in Britain was rising, and he praised the Sandford St Martin Trust for encouraging the production of high quality programmes.

Victorian watercolours snapped up at Sotheby's

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Contradictory results emerged from yesterday's main art auctions. Impressionist, modern and contemporary paintings, the field beloved of "jet-setters", were left 36 per cent unsold at Christie's; rare Old Master prints, beloved of scholars (particularly American and Continental), were topping record prices with 13 per cent left unsold at Christie's; Victorian watercolours, beloved of the British middle class, were selling like hot cakes with 11 per cent unsold at Sotheby's Belgravia.

Best and most contradictory of all was the market for routine nineteenth-century icons in Zurich. Sotheby's and Christie's have had disastrous results in that field over the past six months in London and Sotheby's had taken a modest 160-lot sale to Zurich.

Only 8 per cent was left unsold. Three nineteenth-century panels of "The Saviour", "John the Baptist", and "The Virgin", catalogued by Sotheby's as over-cleaned, doubled estimate to reach the top price of 5,500 Swiss francs, or £1,585.

Christie's modern picture sale, while in the main hard going, had two notable high points. A striking watercolour landscape by Emil Nolde, "Hof Hulltoft unte blauer Wolke", of around 1930, sold for £26,400 (estimate £12,000-£15,000). The price underlines a current demand for German Expressionists. Second, a Henry Moore drawing, "Family Group", of 1944, topped all previous prices for his drawings, selling for £18,700 (estimate £5,000-£7000).

Christie's Old Master print sale had attracted all the important international dealers and collectors to London. The special strength of the auction lay in northern Renaissance prints, a collection of German prints begun in the nineteenth century and a group of Lucas van Leyden engravings from and English private source.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev W J Moxon, Rector of Redmarley D'Abitot with Pauntley, Upleadon and Oxenhall, and Priest in Charge of Bromsberrow, diocese of Gloucester to be Rector of the new benefice of Redmarley D'Abitot and Bromsberrow with Pauntley, Upleadon and Oxenhall same diocese.

The Rev W H Nash, Secretary of the CPAS, North West Area, to be Vicar of Penn Fields, diocese of Lichfield.

The Rev D Noble, Vicar of Frindsbury with Upnor, and Rural Dean of Strood, Diocese of Rochester, to be also Leader of the Strood Group of Parishes, same diocese.

The Rev T L G Packer, Rector of Eastergate and Barnham, diocese of Chichester, to be Priest in Charge of Aldingbourne and Vicar of Eastergate and Barnham, same diocese.

The Rev E R Pilkington, Rector of Theydon Garnon, diocese of Chelmsford, to be Vicar of St Michael, Gidea Park, same diocese.

The Rev J M Prior, Vicar of Marshfield with Cold Ashton, diocese of Bristol, to be Rector of Trull with Angersleigh, diocese of Bath and Wells.

The Rev J A Randall, Priest Warden of Graham Chiesman House, the Rochester Diocesan Conference Centre and Retreat House, diocese of Rochester, to be also Honorary Chaplain to the Bishop of Rochester, same diocese.

The Rev J B Randell, Curate of Ribbleton, diocese of Blackburn, to be Vicar of Barton, same diocese.

The Rev M G Smith, Chaplain of Pocklington School, York, diocese of York, to be Vicar of St David with St Michael, Exeter, diocese of Exeter.

The Rev T S Stratford, Rector of Waldron, diocese of Chichester, to be Vicar of Christ Church, Blacklands and St Andrew, Hastings, same diocese.

The Rev F Sudworth, Asst Curate of St Mary, Deane, diocese of Manchester, to be Asst Curate of St John the Evangelist, Worksop (with special responsibility for the "Prospect Church") diocese of Southwell.

The Rev D N Swain, Rector of the Hermitage Team Ministry, diocese of Oxford, to be Rector of Bingham, diocese of Southwell.

The Rev S S Tatton-Brown, Asst Curate of St Michael and All Angels, Ashton-under-Lyne, diocese of Manchester, to be Priest in Charge of St Gabriel, Prestwich and Chaplain to the Bishop of Manchester, same diocese.

The Rev H G Thomas, Vicar of St John, Bury diocese of Manchester, to be also Diocesan Director of Ordinands, same diocese.

The Rev J H Weeks, Vicar of St Matthew, Yiewsley, diocese of London, to be also Area Dean of Hillingdon, same diocese.

The Rev P H Widdess, Asst Curate of the Parish of the Resurrection, Manchester, diocese of Manchester, to be Minister in Charge of Wies in the Baden Landeskirche, Protestant Church in Germany. (Gerhild Widdess, Mr Widdess's wife and a minister in the Protestant Church in Germany, is to be a minister of the neighbouring parish of Marzell in Baden.)

The Rev P Wheatley, Vicar of Holy Cross, Cromer Street, diocese of London, to be Vicar of St James, West Hampstead, same diocese.

The Rev J F Whitlock, Rector of St Mawgan with St Ervan and St Eval, diocese of Truro, to be Bishop of Truro's Domestic Chaplain and Diocesan Director of Ordinands, same diocese.

The Rev J Yates, Rector of Cossington, diocese of Leicester, also to be Priest in Charge of Seagrave, same diocese.

Retirements and Resignations

Canon J F Capper, Vicar of St Peter and St Paul, Coleshill, and St Michael, Maxstoke, and Rural Dean of Coleshill, diocese of Birmingham, to retire on May 31, 1982.

The Rev T W Denham, Vicar of St Gabriels, Bishopwearmouth, diocese of Durham, to resign on January 26, 1982.

The Rev A M Parry, Rector of Barnston and Vicar of Little Dunmow, diocese of Chelmsford, to retire on April 4, 1982.

Preb W L Roper, Vicar of St Andrew and St Boniface, Paignton, diocese of Exeter, to retire in the new year.

The Rev J C Worthington, Vicar of Ellingham, and Rural Dean of Christchurch Deanery, diocese of Winchester, to resign his rural deanery on December 31.

Withdrawal of acceptance of a living

The Rev C N Wright, Vicar of St John the Baptist, New Springs, Wigan, diocese of Liverpool, has withdrawn his acceptance of the living at St Aidans, Bamber Bridge, diocese of Blackburn.

University news

York

Appointments

G C Moodie to be professor in politics department, as deputy vice-chancellor; P H Venables to be professor and head of psychology department, as pro-vice-chancellor; C H Feinstein to be professor of economics and social history, as head of economics department and related studies; D Blake to be professor in music department, to established chair in music and head of the department.

Personal chairs: M J Mulkay (sociology); J R Bradshaw (social administration).

St Andrew's

Research grant

From the Cancer Research Campaign £13,000 to Dr Anthony Butler and Dr Christopher Glidewell of the Chemistry Department to study the chemical reactions of Roussin's Red Ester, which Chinese scientists found to be carcinogenic

25 Years Ago

From The Times of Friday November 30 1956

U.S. support for Baghdad Pact

Washington, Nov 29. — The State Department announced tonight, with Presidential approval, that the United States would view "with the utmost gravity" any threat to the territory or independence of members of the Baghdad Pact. The statement, it is said, was directed at Russia, Syria, or any other government that might try to threaten member States. It was also made clear that it was concerned only with Middle East signatories of the treaty (Turkey, Pakistan, Iraq, and Persia) and no mention was made of Britain. The Secretary of State returns to the scene as the man of the hour. Allowing for his illness, it is nearly seven weeks since Mr Dulles last met the Press to say that he must reserve the right to correct his "blunders" in the official record; the President has had only one Press conference during this momentous period; and, with Congress in recess, there has been no one to speak with authority of Washington's intentions. There are so many conflicting views at the lower levels of Government with all of which public opinion is duly primed, that the real American position — if anyone knows it — is clearly open to distortion.

Moreover . . .Miles Kington

The Common Market authorities have always hated being depicted as heartless bureaucrats, more interested in parsnips than poetry, regulations than feelings, so they have recently taken the extraordinary step of developing a computer to produce Community verse. they call their computer-poet, with some pride, e e c ummings.

So far ummings has not produced any original poetry. His programmers, for his first run, contented themselves with feeding him well known verse and asking him to turn it into something recognizably a) modern, b) comprehensible, c) capable of going into eight languages, d) European, e) unlikely to anger the Russians.

e e c ummings has done his best under conditions which no other poet has ever had to meet, except perhaps the Poet Laureate, but he tends to get stuck at the first line or two. Here is ummings's version of Browning's "How they brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix", which starts :"I sprang to the stirrup, and Joris, and he:/I galloped, Dirck galloped, we galloped all three."

three horsemen on a highway
going from someplace to some
other (let us say Ghent to
Aix) with, as far as I can
tell, only one stirrup
all unaware that horses are
not permitted on highways,
especially two without stirrups.
calling all squad cars!
arrest suspects joris,
dirck and
I. (this may be an alias.)
next time send news by telex.
poem ends.

e e c ummings was next fed a whole short poem, Lear's "There was an Old Man with a beard / Who said, "It is just as I feared!—/Two owls and a Hen/Four larks and a Wren/ Have all built their nests in my beard!" Results were not a great deal better.

Old hairy man, I greet you!
Bearded and birded old man,
with occasional guillemots
and ravens dropping in, I shake
your hand!
That is what
Walt Whitman would say.
Old dolt. It is not what I say.
There are strict Common Market
rules about poultry storage
and this old man is breaking
them all. Arrest him.
By the way, have you caught
those three horsemen yet?

As a last try, the computer was fed the opening of the famous Brooke poem: "There is some corner of a foreign field/That is forever England . . ." It seems to have provoked a fit of artistic temperament.

Sometimes I think I am the
only sane one round these parts.
Motorway horsemen. Birds in
beards. Now this nonsense
about a field which is English
yet foreign. No wonder the
EEC is cracking up.
If you want *real* poetry, try
this one for size, by me.
Give me the moonlight,
give me the girl,
give me my dearest wishes:
a glass of cheap Italian wine
and a pound of Golden Delicious.
Thank you.

OBITUARY

DR L. H. BUTLER

Principal of Royal Holloway College

Dr Lionel Harry Butler, Principal of Royal Holloway College, University of London, since 1973, died suddenly in London on November 26. He was 57.

The younger son of W. H. Butler, he was born on December 17, 1923. Educated at Dudley Grammar School and, after war service in the RAF, at Magdalen College, Oxford, he graduated in 1945 with a First Class in Modern History. He remained in Magdalen as a scholar and junior lecturer, and in 1946 he was elected a Fellow of All Souls College.

His research for his doctorate was on an aspect of the fourteenth-century English church, but while still in Oxford his interests turned to the history of the Knights Hospitallers on the island of Rhodes in the later Middle Ages. His researches were not completed before he died, but he became well-known as an expert on the Order's history.

In 1969 he was appointed Librarian of the Venerable Order of St John. He wanted to make members of the Order more aware of the treasures housed at St John's Gate and under his direction the collection was reorganized and displayed in an enlarged museum. He was historical director of the Council of Europe exhibition in 1970 on the Order of St John in Malta and from 1978 he was a trustee of the Lambeth Palace library.

In 1955 he was appointed the first Professor of Medieval History at St Andrews University. He found himself in charge of a department consisting of only 3 members of staff; when he left St Andrews in 1973 the staff had grown to fourteen. This period was one of university expansion, but in the country as a whole Medieval History did not not benefit as much as other subjects; indeed the university troubles of the late 1960s were marked by the open hostility of students, who expressed a preference for 'relevant' studies. In this climate Butler's achievement was extraordinary. Not only did his department continue to grow, instituting a single honours course in medieval history, but it also regularly attracted more students than did modern history. Members of the department who moved on to other universities in the 1970s could not comprehend the low morale of the medievalists they encountered. Butler's administrative talents were recognized in his appointment as Dean of Arts in 1966 and Vice-Principal in 1971.

In 1973 he was appointed Principal of Royal Holloway College, which was already growing rapidly. Under him the number of students rose from 1,250 to 1,611. A new physics laboratory was opened in 1974 and a new Faculty of Arts building in 1975, and special relationships were established with the universities of Massachusetts in the United States, Ain Shams in Egypt and Nice in France. It says much for his instinctive desire for conciliation that a genuinely happy atmosphere was to be found in the college. He managed the finances carefully and the college has very low unit costs, which the university court recognized by improving the base-line of its grant. The months before his death were spent coping with the new cuts in university spending and with discussions on the reorganization of the University of London.

Butler was a man of great charm. He was a talented administrator and a superb university politician, in the best sense of that word. The time he gave to administration meant that he wrote comparatively little: his publications included a translation of R. Fawtier's work on the Capetian Kings of France and a book, *Medieval Monasteries of Great Britain*, both written in collaboration with others. But with a bent for the broad sweep of history and the daring generalization, he was a magnificent lecturer: the Historical Association Summer Schools which he directed in 1965, 1966 and 1978 were great occasions, and the success of medieval history at St Andrews was partly due to the interest aroused in first-year students by his lectures.

As a departmental and college head he was kind and approachable. He always put the needs of the students first and insisted on high standards of professional conduct from his young staff at St Andrews.

In 1949 he married Gwendoline Williams, the well-known novelist, who survives him together with their only daughter.

COUNT UMBERTO MORRA

Dame Iris Origo writes:

Umberto Morra, Conte di Lavriano, died on November 7, in his villa at Cortona, at the age of 84.

He was an active anti-fascist, an excellent writer, and a great friend of England. He came of an old Piedmontese family, and his father, General Morra, was the Italian ambassador in Russia, so that Umberto spent his childhood in Petersburg, and after his parents' death returned to Italy, bringing with him his Russian toys — a gilt model of a "troika" and a large brown bear.

In his villa at Cortona, Metelliano, with its frescoes in the "style troubadour" and its study modelled on Napoleon's tent at Malmaison, he received and concealed many anti-fascist friends, including Salvemini, and he also had many foreign guests, among them M. Mitterand and T. S. Eliot. Lord Clark wrote of him that he was "a friend whose sweet character, intelligence and absolute sincerity" had been a joy to him. Another great friend was Bernard Berenson, and Morra published a book entitled *Conversations with Berenson*, which gives a vivid picture of the famous connoisseur and of the friendship which united them.

During the Resistance, Morra played a large part in anti-fascist activity, acting as a link between the central "Committee for National Liberation" in Rome, and its branch in Tuscany, and later on he became the private secretary of the Parri government. In 1955 he was appointed as the director of the Italian Institute in London, where he formed many new and warm friendships.

During the Second World War he worked in the prisoner-of-war section of the Italian Red Cross and in times of crisis, such as the great advance of the "Desert Rats", he was much in demand to decipher the often garbled information that was telegraphed from North Africa.

He then became the Italian representative of the International Red Cross Commission which inspected the Allied POW camps all over Italy, and particularly the one for English generals (among them Generals Carton de Wiart and Monro) in the castle of Vincigliata, above Florence. Here Morra's tact and humour were as useful as his thorough knowledge of the English language and character, though he conscientiously took no part in the generals' eventual escape from their castle, to find freedom in Switzerland and France.

The happiest part of Morra's last years, though he still retained his post in the Society for International Organisation in Rome, was spent in Cortona, where he was surrounded by friends and admirers of every age, class and range of political opinion. It is there, by his own desire, that he is buried. And it is there, and in the hearts of his numerous friends, that he will be remembered.

PROFESSOR D. R. PEART

Professor Donald Richard Peart, who died suddenly on November 26 at the age of 72, was Professor of Music at the University of Sydney from 1948 to 1974, and from 1975 Professor Emeritus.

Born at Fovant, Wiltshire, on January 9, 1909, the son of Herbert Peart, he was educated at Cheltenham College, where he was a scholar, and Queen's College, Oxford, where he was Bible Clerk. In 1932 he was Osgood memorial prizeman.

From 1932 to 1935 he was at the Royal College of Music where he studied composition with Ralph Vaughan Williams and R. O. Morris, violin and viola with Ernest Tomlinson and Arthur Bent, and conducting with W. H. Reed and Constant Lambert.

In the Second World War he was commissioned into The Gloucestershire Regiment and saw service in West Africa, India and Burma. After the war he was invited to take up the newly created chair of music at the University of Sydney. Here he developed the music department to include composition, music literature, musical history, ethnomusicology and later performance.

In 1950 he founded the Pro Musica Society of Sydney University which has been responsible for many first performances of operas and orchestral and choral music including newly-commissioned works. In 1956 he re-formed the International Society for Contemporary Music in Sydney; this made possible an increase in the presentation of new works by younger Australian composers. Peart became the first president of the Musicological Society of Australia in 1964. In 1957 he was elected FRCM.

He married Ellen Lilian, daughter of W. H. Germon. They had one son and one daughter.

Rear Admiral Francis Edward Clemitson, CB, who died on November 27 at the age of 82, was Deputy Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet (Admin), Admiralty from 1950 to 1953.

Mme Besse, widow of M. Antonin Besse, the merchant shipowner and philanthropist, founder of St Antony's College, Oxford, died on November 25 at the age of 92. He died in 1951.

Television

Luxurious returns

"There remains Sebastian", wrote Kingsley Amis in the course of chucking a few well-aimed custard pies at Brideshead Revisited (Granada) in the *TLS* the week before last. "Every time I read the book I ask myself..." One of the many curious things about Waugh's most popular and most reviled novel is that those who have long pronounced it dead of fatal flaws and frequently eased its way to the grave cannot resist returning to the corpse to confirm the causes of death and, indeed, to make sure that death has actually occured.

Behind these obsessional autopsies lies the suspicion that it may — or, worse, that *parts* of it may — still be alive. For if *Brideshead* is no more than a pathetic, snobbish and empty claim on the goodwill of the upper classes and an English Catholic god, cast in the form of a novel whose leading characters are all either beastly or dull, why does the phantom myth sail on, and the sense of grief and loss, even when removed from the *Flyte* family altogether and reduced to abstraction, remain so moving and so strong?

In the film the answer is plain: acting, direction, music and design all work gloriously and consistently to the same end. Episode Eight, "Brideshead Deserted", exemplified its skill in three particular areas: in drawing, as all long serials must, on memories of what we have already seen; in easing us over sketchy sections of the novel in which ten years pass in a paragraph by using brief scenes of great visual beauty; and in introducing, at each stage, new characters and relationships which come sharply alive at once. As Ryder's delicious, sad and slightly foolish wife Jane Asher is as perfect as Phoebe Nicholls's Cordelia has been throughout. It is luxurious, and it does luxuriate, but even at its most attenuated it is not dull.

The same could not, I am afraid, be said of Malcolm Feuerstein's An Arranged Marriage (ATV), which was a well-intentioned and sometimes informative synthesis of Punjabi marriage customs as they survive and change in the West Midlands, based on interviews in the area and presented at length — here was the mistake — by professional actors in drama-documentary form. It was not without charm but offered a great deal too much background in a naive and educational manner more suited to 9.30 in the morning than 10.30 at night.

Professionalism at the *Brideshead* level was on show in Protest (BBC 1), where Nigel Hawthorne played, superbly, both the conformist and the dissident in Vaclav Havel's masterly little play. Czechs find *Protest* horribly funny, I gather, and they are entitled to, but Innes Lloyd and Alistair Clark, who respectively produced and directed, went instead for bitter ironies and, that decision taken, Mr Hawthorne displayed them to the hilt.

Michael Ratcliffe

Lunchtime service in Soho

"She was the original punter with amazing taste." **Irving Wardle** examines the theatrical legacy of Verity Bargate (right).

"A bird is running a theatre, the top one-act play theatre in the country, probably the world, she writes three novels, she's running a home, bringing up two kids, and dying of cancer — she's got my toast anyway." The voice, built to carry the length of Mile End Road on a foggy night, belongs to Bob Hoskins, here paying his respects to Verity Bargate, the director of the Soho Poly Theatre until her death last May.

Hoskins has some reason for raising a glass to her memory. As the gangster Harold Shand in *The Long Good Friday*, and Iago in Jonathan Miller's *Othello*, he is everybody's favourite Cockney actor. Now he is about to break into Southern Californian territory in the National Theatre production of Sam Shepard's *True West*. But there was a time in the mid-Seventies when he thought he would never work again.

"I was in the middle of divorce proceedings and I'd lost contact. I couldn't talk to people or relate to anything. I was locked up inside myself. So I wrote this play, *The Bystander*, about a Peeping Tom who lives his life through this young girl next door. She has an abortion and dies; he watches her die and he disintegrates. In the play he's talking to plants. In real life I was going over to Regent's Park talking to ducks. Verity could see what I was going through and she said 'You've got to do this, you've got to live it out on stage', and, bang, it happened. She'd have the cleaning lady in at rehearsals and ask what she thought of it. When it opened I was doing the show and then going on to a psychiatrist. But she made me realize that if I could perform a one-act play I wasn't as badly off as I thought I was. Amazing woman. Game as a peanut."

Other people could tell similar stories about the encouragement and loyalty she gave them, and the fine productions she conjured out of their work. The Poly in her time was a good place to start (Mary O'Malley and James Robson were among those it launched), and it had a soft spot for underdogs. But it was never a theatrical soup-kitchen. To a unique degree it combined non-exclusiveness with high professionalism; the only clue to the formula being summed up in the mystery factor of "Verity's taste". Hoskins, again, is speaking for other people as well when he says "Her spirit must be continued."

Up to a point it is continuing. She was planning the theatre's advance programme until the end of her life, and one of the last plays she commissioned — a piece by Tony Marchant (author of *Thick as Thieves*) — arrives at the Poly next January. Also the film rights of her novel *Children Crossing* have been sold for production by Barry Hanson (who made *The Long Good Friday*.) But beyond these transitory links with the past, another means has been devised of keeping her name alive.

In the opinion of her friends and colleagues (and in mine too), she was the most persistent and effective encourager of new writing talent in the English theatre since George Devine. And just as the father of the Royal Court found his memorial in the George Devine Award, so will she find hers in a Verity Bargate Award, to be given annually for "a play suitable for production in the Soho Poly's lunchtime season" (terms that reflect her dislike of distinguishing between short and full-length plays, and her hatred of labelling anything as "the best").

The award consists of a prize of £1,000 and a guaranteed production; also the winning entry and the two runners-up will be published by Eyre-Methuen. Entries are being invited from January 31, to coincide with a fund-raising night at the Round House — including extracts from Soho Poly plays, readings from the novels, and other aspects of her work — and the award will be made on August 6, which commemorates her birthday and the dropping of the Hiroshima bomb.

There is an inbuilt tendency for artistic awards to become institutionalized as their originating purpose subsides into committee work and today's open market becomes tomorrow's closed shop. But there is a good chance in this case that the door will be kept open. For one thing, the judges announced so far amount to a cross-section of the profession, including acting (Hoskins, Charlotte Cornwell), writing (Barrie Keeffe, Howard Brenton), publishing (Nick Hern) and women's theatre (Ann Mitchell) — all of them people who knew her very well and capable of making a shrewd guess at "Verity's taste."

The other hopeful point is that, even though the terms omit to say so, nothing larger than an hour-length piece will qualify for the Poly's lunchtime season. A short play no less than a full-length play may be a masterpiece. But short plays never make anybody a fortune; they never turn into the sort of "property" that diverts the author from writing into creative accountancy and keeping track of his German royalties.

In 1977 it happened that the Poly transferred seven plays to television, but that success changed nobody's life, and left the theatre free to continue in its chosen course of fertile semi-obscurity. Bargate once commissioned a piece from Barrie Keeffe, saying she could only pay three actors but the theatre did have some corrugated iron. The result was Keeffe's *Abide With Me* trilogy, in which to the day I die I shall remember Karl Johnson as the impotently enraged Cup supporter leaping up, hammering, and beating his head on that iron wall. Subsequently, *Abide With Me* went on in Düsseldorf with levels that went up and down on hydraulic lifts on a budget of £30,000. Keeffe meanwhile was off writing *Sus*, another shoestring piece suitable for production in the Poly's lunchtime season.

Over the past 30 years, the British theatre has killed almost as many writers as it has discovered, each one broken under the millstone of early success. Specialists in short plays, on the other hand, are prone to the discouragements of unrewarded obscurity. What the Bargate Award could do is to adjust the balance in their favour — offering a bit more money, a bit more public attention for writers who are doing good work today and will go on to do good work tomorrow.

"If", says Hoskins, "I had a chance of seeing *Ben Hur* in stereophonic circlerama with Charlton Heston dripping in glycerine, or seeing my Uncle Fred doing the whole thing, horses as well, in the front room with a towel for a toga, I'd be going for him every time. Same with Verity. She was the original punter with amazing taste. She was a street artist, creating a paving stone that's beautiful. Then the rain comes down and it's gone."

Opera

Leading ladies together in Paris

Semiramide/ Der Rosenkavalier

Théâtre des Champs Elysées, Paris

No sounds more beguiling are likely to come from the opera stage this year than those of Montserrat Caballe and Marilyn Horne interweaving their voices in Rossini. The two ladies are singing in *Semiramide* at the moment in the Théâtre des Champs Elysées, where the Paris Opera is in temporary exile while alterations are made to its home theatre, and those who care about *bel canto* should beg or thieve a ticket to hear them.

The elysian duet of Montserrat Caballe (left) and Marilyn Horne in "Semiramide"; and Kiri Te Kanawa (above), a fine Marschallin in the making.

The oddest element of a rare evening is that the two ladies should have been so little heard together in Rossini. Caballe showed herself a remarkable interpreter of that composer's music back in her earliest recitals for RCA, yet at Covent Garden all too often she has been cast in dramatic parts which have not always shown her at her best — Aida, Leonora, Violetta. Horne is now approaching veteran status, although she never allows anyone to guess it: it is well over a quarter of a century since she dubbed Dorothy Dandridge's voice in *Carmen Jones*. She has dug deep into the Rossini repertory, including *Semiramide* with Sutherland, yet it is Caballe who really strikes the sparks from her.

The sparks of competition are exactly what Rossini, and *Semiramide* in particular, requires. He wrote his opera according to a set pattern of a display aria for coloratura soprano and coloratura mezzo in each act coupled with a pair of lengthy duets to dispel the impression of any rivalry that might have been generated. No opera composer was more professional. In the concert hall — and recording studio — it is the arias which have survived, notably Semiramide's "Bel raggio lusinghier" as she waits in the Hanging Gardens of Babylon for the return of her general, Arsace, and his entry cavatina "Eccomi alfine in Babilonia" — Rossini's librettist Rossi might have traded in lofty sentiments but he used some fairly prosaic words. But in the theatre, with Caballe and Horne, it is the duets which enrapture above all, the vocal lines crisscrossing as in the most delicate filigree. The match of the two voices seems to have been made in some musical elysium.

Bernard Lefort brought Caballe and Horne together the summer before last in *Semiramide* at Aix when he was still running the festival there. Since then Pier Luigi Pizzi's quirky production, which teeters on the edge of the ridiculous, has been on the move, to Genoa, to Turin (with Ricciarelli and Valentini-Terrani), to San Francisco (with Caballe and Horne, as at Aix) and now to Paris, a just stopping point since Lefort is Administrator of the Opéra.

Pizzi, one of a growing and often untrustworthy breed of designer-producers, takes a fantastic view of Rossini's chosen libretto, loosely based on Voltaire. Babylon looks like a giant Persil commercial, where all is dazzlingly white, right down to the subsidiary characters, who look as if they have been chipped, poor things, plaster and all, from some enormous frieze. Their arms protrude from sandwich-boards, like whitewashed playing-card figures from Alice.

Marmoreal opera, indeed! Semiramide and Arsace alone are excused such eccentricities, although both are topped with silvery wigs the texture of candyfloss. The production consists mainly of swishing enormous cloaks across the stage, either to express emotion or to indicate a change from aria to cabaletta. Pizzi's alibi is that the libretto is an amalgam of all that detractors of opera find preposterous in the genre, right through to the close where Arsace mistakes the ample form of Semiramide (who has by then been revealed as his mother) as the lean and hungry villain of the piece and runs a sword through her. (Mention not the name of Oedipus.) Arsace hovers between suicide and rejoicing that the gods will now lift their curse from Babylon; with the minimum of debate he opts for the latter and the first of the two alternative endings Rossini wrote for the opera.

So much has to be endured in the name of *bel canto* and it is endured with joy when Caballe and Horne are in the peak of vocal condition, perfoming the music they sing best of all. They inspire one another and they inspire the rest of the cast. Francisco Araiza, the young Mexican tenor who should be heard as soon as possible in the theatre in London, showed himself more than capable of sustaining Rossini's florid line in the role of Idreno, the Indian prince whose involvement with the plot is minimal. Samuel Ramey, cadaverous of appearance and sumptuous of voice as the triple-dyed villain Assur, proved once again that he is pushing himself into the front rank of bass-baritones. Fine contributions come from the conductor, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, and his double chorus centre and side stage.

After a house which rightly cheered every number in *Semiramide* Paris's *Rosenkavalier* looked distinctly dull. On paper it promised well. Kiri Te Kanawa chose the Opéra for her first Marschallin and her motives were totally understandable. Paris has always appreciated her and that feeling has been reciprocated. By her side were Frederike von Stade, than whom there is no better or more aristocratic Octavian today, and Kurt Moll, whose Ochs ripens by the month without getting overblown.

And yet it did not work. Hans Hartleb's production is drab and Ezio Frigerio's setting drabber still. Frigerio, usually a most scrupulous designer, in an unconvincing programme note writes that he has visualized the action of *Rosenkavalier* "dans un rêve loin de la realité". The dream turns out to be little more than Vienna seen through a fog, a central European version of a London Particular, which reaches the culmination of idiosyncracy by setting the last act inside the gateway of a *Heurigen*. The idea of Ochs planning a seduction with a chill breeze blowing the autumn leaves around his feet bears little examination. Andrew Davis, whose response to opera is unpredictable, opening new doors on one work and closing old and well-tried ones on another, conducted as if he had fallen out of love with *Rosenkavalier* or the Opéra orchestra. Or maybe both. In the circumstances Miss Te Kanawa, already suffering from a cold, gave only a first draft of the fine Marschallin she will interpret one day.

Semiramide plays tomorrow and Saturday and on December 7, 10 and 12; *Rosenkavalier* is on Friday and on December 8 and 11.

John Higgins

Concerts

Finding the missing link

Bournemouth Sinfonietta/ Montgomery

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Three symphonies from the third quarter of the eighteenth century and two guitar concertos from 1939 made up Monday's concert by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta. The missing link, unless it was fortuitous, was provided by Boccherini, that *emigre* Italian (like Castelnuovo-Tedesco) who was seduced by the colours and the rhythms of Spain (like Rodrigo).

His *Casa del Diavolo* symphony is not one of his more hispanic pieces, except perhaps in the stylized gavotte that makes up its slow movement, a curiously wistful, minor-key piece full of syncopations, textures and harmony but conspicuously short on themes; its finicky handling of detail has echoes in Rodrigo. After it comes a surprise, a finale which is a recomposition of Gluck's *Don Juan* chaconne, the piece which we all know as the "Dance of the Furies" in *Orphée*, here made a shade more civilized, to its disadvantage. The Bournemouth players did it with due spirit, though the middle movement might have profited from greater polish.

They played another rarity and oddity, a symphony by Thomas Arne. It shows Arne straining, Peter Pan-like, in a novel idiom. Often the music shoots off into old-fashioned baroque unisons and sturdy Handelian basses; and when it inches towards classicism it halts too regularly for cadences. Kenneth Montgomery would have served it better by reading its finale as a *galant* minuet, needing more time for its elegance to be realized.

The guitar concertos offered revealing contrast. Castelnuovo-Tedesco was the technician supreme, a kind of arrested-development Mendelssohn whose command far outpaced what he had to say. The piece is exquisitely orchestrated, with the lightest of touches, and with a gentle wit that lets him introduce delicate new counterpoints every time aan idea recurs, and they recur a lot. Sometimes the piece seems like an exercise in saying different things in the same way, perhaps just the same thing in different ways: he piles ostinato upon ostinato, some long, some short, each with a dozen glosses. Never mind if the invention is slender; its working out is masterly.

The young guitarist Michael Conn played it with proper delicacy, relishing its lazy rhythms and dawdling affectionately over them, varying his textures to set off the variety of accompaniments, and finding a proper excitement for the finale cadenza. But in Rodrigo's *Concierto De Aranjuez* he had more scope for colour, in the heady suggestions of languid nights in the Spanish gardens, those of moorish Spain in the Adagio with its wailing English horn and oboe and indeed guitar. He had trouble with slipping strings, and his shaping of the big cadenza was not quite assured; but there was real poetry and charm in his playing.

Last, Mozart's thirty-third symphony, to restore a sense of values; not an especially careful or refined performance, and thinnish in violin tone, but in its way lively and agreeably cheerful.

Stanley Sadie

RPO/Temirkanov

Festival Hall

For the second night running Berlioz was the main focus of musical attention at the Festival Hall on Monday, when the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra included the *Symphonie Fantastique* as the second part of their programme. It was the first of three concerts they are giving this week with Yuri Temirkanov, who directs the Kirov Opera in Leningrad and also holds the title of the RPO's principal guest conductor, and whose approach to Berlioz was decidedly equivocal.

There are those who present this symphony as a collage of romantic impressions, others who seek to suggest the fevered states of a disordered mind, and some who try to combine both. It must take a special kind of talent to make it sound pedestrian, even dull in places, yet, for all his attention to the face value of the notes (and the empty bars) written into the score, this was the impression I had from Mr Temirkanov's performance.

His whirling arms, clutching hands and absence of baton combine into a distracting kind of technique, one that often gets between the sounds the orchestra makes and the listener trying to absorb them; but apart from this much of his conducting of Berlioz relied on volume, whether loud or soft, on contrasts of dynamics, rather than brilliance or subtlety of instrumental colour (though there were notable solo contributions from principal clarinet and cor anglais).

The ponderous course of the symphony's performance had been anticipated at the start of the programme by a voyage to *The Hebrides*, in the form of Mendelssohn's overture, which made such heavy weather of the excursion that the music acquired the weightiness of a Beethoven symphonic movement. Between these works came Mozart's G major Piano Concerto (K 453) with a welcome lightness of spirit in the overall ensemble but something less than rewarding delight in the undercharacterized playing of Christian Zacharias.

The pianist began gracefully enough, with nimble passage-work and keen rhythmic articulation, choosing the first of the two cadenzas Mozart provided in this and the following slow movement to agreeable purpose. Yet the performance had no wider vision of the harmonic skill behind the musical invention, and I was sorry the cheerful variations of the finale were despatched with cool efficiency rather than the warm affection that belongs to them.

Noël Goodwin

Rock

Shakin' Stevens

Odeon, Hammersmith

As a kit of parts — raven rinse, glottal gulp, rotating hips, pink blouson — making up a rockabilly Action Man, Shakin' Stevens would have passed muster alongside Ral Donner, Jet Powers, Conway Twitty and the other second division Presleys who populated the late Fifties. Unlike most revivalists, he is not a refugee from more recent fashions, and his long-term commitment has conferred an easy confidence within the idiom.

Ten years ago, when he was rather closer to the right age for the job, Stevens enlivened the early rock and roll revival shows with an intense, authentic delivery of the classic repertoire; he seemed to be a Welsh country boy who had never heard the Beatles. Years of obscurity were ended when Jack Good cast him in *Elvis*, and over the past year a clever campaign has elevated him to that species of pop stardom in which the subject becomes a teddy-bear for the pre-teens, a sex symbol for young mums and a kitsch joke to those in between.

There is always a price for such success. While hitting a commercially acceptable vein, Stuart Colman's clever production of Stevens's current recordings has extracted all the bite and threat which Dave Edmunds, in a similar capacity, drew from the singer in the version of "Train Kept A-Rollin'" which remains perhaps the most spectacularly intense British interpretation of the rockabilly style.

This process of taming was reflected in Monday night's show, a curiously tame affair in which Stevens presented all his hits ("Green Door", "This Old House" and so on), danced very cutely in a manner combining the young Presley's provocative convulsions with the more stylized choreography of *West Side Story*, and showed signs of strain in his voice. The talents of his pianist, Geraint Watkins, and his guitarist, Mickey Gee, were largely wasted, and Stevens's flirtations with the girls who bombarded him with roses and kisses seemed depressingly parodistic.

Most of all, the spectacle lacked internal energy. On the road to *Top of the Pops*, Stevens appears to have been cured of the restricted vision which once made him convincing and even interesting.

Richard Williams

The most horrible heroine of all?

Dreaming about Therese

Guildhall School

At the 1974 Edinburgh Festival I was much taken by the Swedish composer Lars-Johann Werle's *Drömmen om Therese*, an opera conceived for performance "in the round", without physical scenery and with the orchestra behind and surrounding the audience. I then recommended it to any touring opera company here, optimistically as the recession turned out.

Seven years later it is the opera class at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in the Barbican which has staged the British première.

Theatre in the round, for an audience, is more often than not merely a gimmick which may or may not make a play more interesting or enlightening. *Dreaming about Therese*, which treats a Zola short story to the flashback structural technique of Aldous Huxley's novel *Eyeless in Gaza*, events shown out of sequence, needs arena production because the drama involves close participation by the surrounding orchestra, and by instruments played on stage.

There is a blind fiddler, a mute stranger who communicates on his guitar, and a hero who plays the flute as often as he sings.

The heroine, Therese, is beautiful, and a sadistic bitch: she torments the hunchback who loves her, murders him, then persuades the neighbour, who also adores her, to get rid of the corpse in return for a night of love. He realizes the truth and, having done his task, throws himself into the water, after the corpse, leaving Therese free to marry a rich suitor.

The orchestral playing, conducted by Peter Ford, was exemplary in neatness and enthusiasm but did not make all the spatial effects desirable (for example the violin duets of hero and heroine), perhaps because the fourth side of the auditorium was unavailable.

Further performances are this evening and on Friday, at 6.15 and 8.30, with leading roles cast in duplicate. My cast had a stiff Julien, a sympathetic Colombel, an excellent maid-servant, and a beautiful, cold, properly nasty Therese (she must compete with Vitellia and Lady Macbeth for the most horrible heroine in opera). It was, rather to my surprise, a less vital experience than the Swedish production: opera students should find *Therese* gripping material.

William Mann

Stock Exchange Prices

Nervous selling

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 23. Dealings End, Dec 4. § Contango Day, Dec 7. Settlement Day, Dec 14.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY BELL'S

BRITISH FUNDS

1980/81 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
SHORTS								
99 5/16	88	Treas	8½%	1980-82	99¼	..	8.570	14.447
98⅝	81¾	Treas	3%	1982	97 21/32	+1/32	3.072	14.445
102¾	90½	Treas	14%	1982	99⅞	..	14.018	14.237
96¾	85⅝	Treas	8¼%	1982	96¾	• ..	8.526	14.380
98¼	85¾	Exch	9¼%	1982	96	-⅛	9.635	14.630
95¼	84⅝	Exch	8¾%	1983	95⅜	• ..	9.174	13.467
92	76½	Exch	3%	1983	89⅞	..	3.338	12.135
99 7/16	85¾	Treas.	12%	1983	97	-⅛	12.371	14.635
94¼	84¼	Treas	9½%	1983	93⅜	-⅛	9.907	13.918
102¾	94¼	Exch	13½%	1983	97⅞	-⅛	13.794	14.782
94 7/16	84⅛	Exch	10%	1983	92⅝	•-⅛	10.795	14.323
88	76⅝	Fund	5½%	1982-84	85¾	..	6.424	13.476
97 7/16	88⅞	Exch	11¼%	1984	92⅞	-⅛	12.112	15.101
104 5/16	94½	Exch	14%	1984	98¼	-⅛	14.231	14.818
82¾	65¼	Exch	3%	1984	79⅞	• ..	3.756	12.453
99⅞	88	Treas	12%	1984	93¼	-½	12.835	14.940
105¾	95⅞	Treas	15%	1985	98⅞	-½	15.173	15.403
98¾	88⅞	Exch Cv	12%	1985	91½	-½	13.115	15.386
76	68 15/16	Treas	3%	1985	72⅞	..	4.117	12.950
98 5/16	85⅞	Treas	11½%	1985	88⅞	-½	12.939	15.604
103¾	87⅞	Exch	12¼%	1985	91¼	-½	13.406	15.221
97½	84⅞	Exch	11¾%	1986	88⅞	-⅛	13.257	15.478
69 15/16	65¾	Treas	3%	1986	68¾	..	4.356	12.259
97⅞	84⅝	Treas	13%	1986	89¼	•-½	13.461	15.431
MEDIUMS								
89⅞	78¾	Treas	8¼%	1984-86	81½	-⅛	10.430	14.081
105¾	90⅝	Exch	13¼%	1987	97½	-⅛	14.295	15.321
81¾	70¼	Fund	6½%	1985-87	75¼	-¼	8.713	13.224
99⅝	81½	Treas	12%	1987	87¼	-⅛	13.900	15.620
83	71⅞	Treas	7¾%	1985-88	77¼	-⅛	10.400	14.056
65¾	34⅞	Trans	3%	1978-88	61⅞	•-½	4.849	11.392
98	79½	Treas	11½%	1989	85¾	-⅛	13.994	15.682
68¼	57⅞	Treas	5%	1986-89	64⅞	-½	7.878	12.396
104¼	88½	Treas	13%	1990	93⅝	-⅛	14.636	15.446
95⅞	81½	Exch	12½%	1990	87⅞	-⅛	14.711	15.807
82	69½	Treas	8¼%	1987-90	71⅞	•-½	11.429	13.934

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
152	123	Linfood Hldgs	153	-2	17.2	11.2	10.7
245	153	Link House	238	..	14.3	6.0	12.8
44	29	Lloyd F. H.	32	+½	0.7e	2.2	..
128	83	Ldn & M'land	102	..	11.1	10.9	9.7
49½	28	Ldn & N'thern	39	•-½	5.4	13.7	4.6
84½	55½	Ldn Brick Co	73	..	6.2	8.5	4.6
90	38	Longton Inds	40	..	1.4	3.6	..
121	68	Lonrho	80	-2	12.9	16.1	..
65	25	Lonsdale Univ	30	-2	0.7	2.4	6.0
55	35	Lookers	46	..	5.5	12.0	5.7
268	93	Lovell Bldgs	240	+5	10.4	4.3	6.2
213	148	Low & Bonar	150	..	20.7	13.8	6.0
298	159	Lucas Ind	216	•-2	15.7	7.3	..
72	36	Lyles S.	67	• ..	8.9	13.3	..
M — N							
91	45	MFI Furn	53	..	3.7	7.1	9.8
248	144	MK Electric	233	-3	17.1	7.4	8.8
365	170½	ML Hldgs	305	..	10.0	3.3	9.8
50½	27	MY Dart	29	• ..	2.6	9.1	5.0
150	86	McCorquodale	126	..	11.4	9.1	6.1
82	66	Macfarlane	70	..	5.3	7.6	8.4
43	18	McInerney Prop	23	+1	2.2	9.7	5.3
53	25	Mackay H.	44	..	5.2	11.8	16.1
127	84	McKechnie Bros	91	..	10.4	11.4	7.1
100	56	Macpherson D.	64	..	6.0	9.4	24.2
174	85¼	Magnet & S'thns	140	-4	7.1	5.1	10.0
217	97	Man Agcy Music	121	..	12.5b	10.3	4.2
285	101	Man Ship Canal	103	..	..e	..	..
36	21	Mang Bronze	25	..	3.1	12.4	..
154	67	Marchwiel	112	..	8.6	7.7	..
142	78	Marks & Spencer	127	-3	5.8	4.6	17.3
51	33½	Marley Ltd	41	-1½	3.3	7.8	9.4

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
210	88	Security Serv	180	..	4.0	2.2	16.2
210	78	Do A	180	..	4.0	2.2	16.2
40	14	Sekers Int	23	..	0.1	0.6	..
20¼	9½	Sellncourt	10½	..	1.6	15.5	11.9
78	30	Serck	57	h	4.9e	8.5	10.4
32½	17	Shaw Carpets	18½	-½	2.9	15.5	32.5
203	149½	Siebe Gorman	178	..	10.4	5.8	7.5
97	35	Silentnight	91	..	6.4	7.1	..
436	198	Simon Eng	381	•-2	17.1	4.5	8.1
128	39	Sirdar	124	-3	5.0	4.0	8.9
81	52	600 Group	70	..	7.5	10.7	11.6
289	201	Sketchley	286	..	13.4	4.7	14.6
111	64	Smith D. S.	94	..	10.0	10.6	7.4
113½	58¾	Smith & Neph	99½	-1½	5.0	5.0	12.1
187	130	Smith W. H. 'A'	169	•-1	6.7	4.0	16.3
403	176	Smiths Ind	368	•-10	15.0	4.1	9.8
93½	65⅞	Smurfit	77	..	5.7	7.4	9.0
67	28	Snia Viscosa	28	..	..	..	..
40	19	Solicitors Law	27	..	..e	..	..
535	350	Sotheby P B.	445	+2	17.9	4.0	11.8
184	115½	Spirax-Sarco	150	..	6.3	4.2	12.6
88	29	Staffs Potts	35	+1	0.0	..	..
107	70	Stag Furniture	83	..	7.1	8.6	7.0
55½	29¼	Stakis (Reo)	47	..	2.1	4.4	8.0
544	230	Standard Tel	440	-5	15.0	3.4	14.4
67	45	Stanley A. G.	48	..	3.6	7.8	7.4
225	115	Steel Bros	219	..	11.4	5.2	8.4
222	154	Steetley Co	171	..	15.0	8.8	8.3
28½	12½	Steinberg	25½	..	..	..	..
130	84	Stonehill	100	..	12.1	12.1	34.4
56	9	Stone Platt	9	..	..	..	..
33	11	Streeters	22	..	..	..	7.5
66	49	Strong & Fisher	50	a ..	7.1	14.3	..
110	42	Sunlight Serv	96	..	3.6	3.8	7.9
52	25	Sutcliffe S'man	45	..	..e	..	..
188	61½	Swire Pacific 'A'	111	-1½	..	..	..
201	140	Syltone	159	..	12.9	8.1	17.6

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) December 1	Market rates (close) December 1	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.9450-9650	$1.9470-9480	0.58-0.48c prem	1.25-1.15c prem
Montreal	$2.2900-3100	$2.2940-2950	0.50-0.60c disc	0.55-0.75c disc
Amsterdam	4.72-76fl	4.73¾-74¾fl	1½-1c prem	4⅝-3⅝c prem
Brussels	73.05-65f	73.15-25f	8-18c disc	40-60c disc
Copenhagen	13.88-96k	13.90-91k	310-220ore prem	470-330ore prem
Dublin	1.2160-2250p	1.2210-2225p	30-45p disc	100-125p disc
Frankfurt	4.31½-35½m	4.32¾-33¾m	1⅛-1⅛pf prem	5⅛-4⅛pf prem
Lisbon	124.55-126.00e	124.70-125.00e	20-18.5c disc	50-390c disc
Madrid	184.90-185.90p	185.40-60p	40-70c disc	110-155c disc
Milan	2316-30lr	2317-19lr	16¼-19¼lr disc	47¾-50¾lr disc
Oslo	11.10-18k	11.11¼-12¼k	125-235ore disc	15 prem-95ore disc
Paris	10.90-98f	10.92½-93½f	⅞-1⅞c disc	5-6c disc
Stockholm	10.58-67k	10.61½-62½k	155-85ore prem	530-460ore prem
Tokyo	418.23y	420¼-21¼y	310-275y prem	810-775y prem
Vienna	30.20-55sch	30.43-48sch	17-13gro prem	40-30gro prem
Zurich	3.45½-49½f	3.47-48f	2-1½c prem	4½-4c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was unchanged at 91.8.

Money Market Rates

Clearing Banks Base Rate 15½

Discount Mkt Loans%
Overnight: High 15 Low 5

Week Fixed: 14¾-14¼

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	14 7/32	2 months	14 1/16
3 months	14	3 months	13¾

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months	14⅜-14¼	3 months	15
3 months	14¾-14 1/32	4 months	14¼
4 months	14¼-13 15/16	6 months	14¼
6 months	13¾-13⅝		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15⅞-15⅞	7 months	14¼-13⅞
2 months	15¼-15	8 months	14¼-13⅞
3 months	15¼-14⅞	9 months	14⅜-14⅜
4 months	15-14¾	10 months	14⅜-14⅜
5 months	14⅞-14⅝	11 months	14⅜-14⅜
6 months	14¼-13⅞	12 months	14⅜-14⅜

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	15¼-15⅛	6 months	14¾-14⅝
3 months	15 1/16-14 15/16	12 months	14½-14⅜

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	15⅛	3 months	15⅛
7 days	15¼	6 months	14⅞
1 month	15¼	1 year	14½

Interbank Market (%)
Overnight: Open 15½-15⅜ Close 5

1 week	15½-15⅜	6 months	14¾-14¼
1 month	15⅜-15 5/16	9 months	14¾-14⅝
3 months	15¼-15	12 months	14 13/16-14 11/16

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 15½ 6 months 15¼

Finance House Base Rate 16%

Other Markets

Australia	1.6850-1.7000
Bahrein	0.7365-0.7395
Finland	8.3480-8.3880
Greece	108.05-110.05
Hongkong	10.8945-10.9345
Iran	Not available
Kuwait	0.5455-0.5485
Malaysia	4.3765-4.4065
Mexico	49.85-51.35
New Zealand	2.3155-2.3355
Saudi Arabia	6.6815-6.7115
Singapore	4.0010-4.0310
South Africa	1.8750-1.8900

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.5930-1.5960
† Canada	1.1781-1.1783
Netherlands	2.4260-2.4310
Belgium	37.55-37.60
Denmark	7.1350-7.1450
West Germany	2.2205-2.2220
Portugal	64.05-64.25
Spain	95.15-95.25
Italy	1189-1191
Norway	5.7025-5.7075
France	5.6100-5.6150
Sweden	5.4530-5.4560
Japan	216.15-216.30
Austria	15.56-15.59
Switzerland	1.7610-1.7630

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 US $0.8486-0.8488

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 11-12; seven days, 12 5/16-12 7/16; one month, 12 9/16-12 9/16; three months, 12 5/16-12 7/16; six months, 12 13/16-13 1/16.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, 406.00 (an ounce); pm, 402.50 close, 402.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $415-417 (£213-214).
Sovereigns (new): 99-100 (£51-51.50).

MISCELLANEOUS

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
48	25	Calcutta Elec	38		9.1	24.0	
34½	28½	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£31		500	16.1	
32	17	Gt Nthn Tele	£32		150	4.7	12.0
353	150	Imp Cont Gas	186		11.4	6.1	11.8
135	93	Milford Docks	115		0.7	0.6	
193	88	Nesco Inv	130	+3	10.0	7.7	
35	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£31		500	16.1	

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. e Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Acsis Jewellery 10p Ord (70a)	72
Asprey 25p Ord (a)	900
Brooke Bond Liebig 8¾% Db 87-92	£83
Cable and Wireless 50p Ord (168)	196-2
E. Worcester Wtr 10¾% Rd Pf 1986 (*)	£103
Exchequer 14% 1986 (g)	£39½-½
Exco International 10p Ord (140)	171-2
Feedback Group 10p Ord (90a)	100+4
Greenwich Cable 25p Ord (50a)	42
Humberside Elect Controls 10p Ord (16½a)	19+2
Johnstone's Paints 10p Ord (63a)	75
Moray Firth Exp	100-2
Nimslo Int $0.28 Ord ($4.25a)	168-10
Saxon Oil 50p Ord (12½p paid)	75-3
Sheldon Jones 20p Ord (67a)	78
Television South 10p Ord NV (ak)	33
Do 14/20% 1988-88 Ln (ak)	£57
Tendering H'dred Wtr 10¾% Rd Pf '86 (£100)	£103
V W 25p Ord (62a)	61

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renunc	
BP (275 partly paid)	Dec 16	336f
Northern Foods (126‡)	Jan 15	9prem
Raglan Prop Tst (7½‡)		2prem
Strong and Fisher (50‡)		½prem

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a unlisted securities market. b. £10 paid. f fully paid. g £40 paid. h £50 paid. i £30 paid. j £25 paid. k Issued in units of sixteen shares and £5 nominal loan stock at £9 per unit.

Robots from the garden shed, page 17

Business News

THE TIMES Wednesday December 2 1981

EEC to agree on basis for energy pricing

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

An agreement on energy pricing principles to be followed throughout the European Community will be formally endorsed at a Council of Ministers meeting tomorrow, Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, told the House of Lords committee on the EEC yesterday.

The agreement is the result of a United Kingdom initiative, one of the few brought to fruition during the current period of the British presidency.

"The Government is determined that our industry should not be at a competitive disadvantage in the EEC," he said. "The agreement will declare that energy prices must not be kept at artificially low levels and that users should have adequate access to information on prices and on the methods by which both prices and tariffs are determined.

"It is important that the Community's pricing principles are fully observed so that energy investment decisions are not distorted by hidden subsidies," he said.

Lord Kearton, a member of the committee and also a part-time member of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, commented on the fact that France, with cheap hydro-electricity as well as nuclear power, was able to offer prices which benefited French industry. "We have cheap oil and gas, but we have taken the deliberate decision to price at top world levels," he said. "Is that not masochistic from the point of view of British industry?"

Mr Lawson replied that oil and gas prices were not out of line with those in Europe. The main problem was the price of electricity to heavy industrial users where the link was with the cost of generation and the price of coal. "We would do better to devote our attention to ways in which we can try to bring down, in real terms, the cost of coal," he said.

There was still a greater demand for gas than there was in supply, and even with the present pattern of supplies, the United Kingdom was to a large extent dependent on imports of gas from Norway. "We are not in a position at the present time to be the 'Lady Bountiful' to Europe in the gas field," Mr Lawson added.

☐ Mr Lawson's soothing words on achieving a measure of agreement on energy pricing practices in Europe will do little to mollify the campaign which bulk users of electricity—particularly the energy-intensive industries of steel, chemicals and paper and board—have waged for almost two years. (Peter Hill writes).

Continuing wide discrepancies in prices for electricity supplied to bulk users in Britain compared with their European counterparts were highlighted in the recent report of the National Economic Development Council's energy task force.

Joint findings made in the main body of that report by the Electricity Council and the Chemical Industries Association showed that French tariff prices were as much as 28 per cent lower; in West Germany, up to 16 per cent lower; and up to 41 per cent lower in Italy.

The Electricity Council, together with area electricity boards and the Central Electricity Generating Board were asked several months ago by the former energy secretary, Mr David Howell to carry out a review of the bulk supply tariff—effectively the wholesale price at which the CEGB sells power to the area boards.

That review is almost complete and is due to be submitted to the Department of Energy soon. Bulk supply is the key to the tariff structure and energy intensive industries believe that there is scope for the electricity supply industry to modify existing rate and tariff structures to take account of heavier users.

Central TV in £25m float by Warburg

By Simon Proctor

Central Independent Television, the new company covering the dual franchise area of East and West Midlands, is being floated off by merchant bank S. G. Warburg in an operation which will bive the company a market capital of £25m, according to the prospectus published today.

The public is being offered the opportunity of subscribing for 49 per cent. of the voting and non-voting shares of the capital of Central. The remaining 51 per cent of each class of stock will be owned by Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation.

This arrangement is in line with the requirements of the Independent Broadcasting Authority at the time of the bidding for the new franchise for the area. The prospectus makes it plain that the five conditions laid down by the IBA have been met.

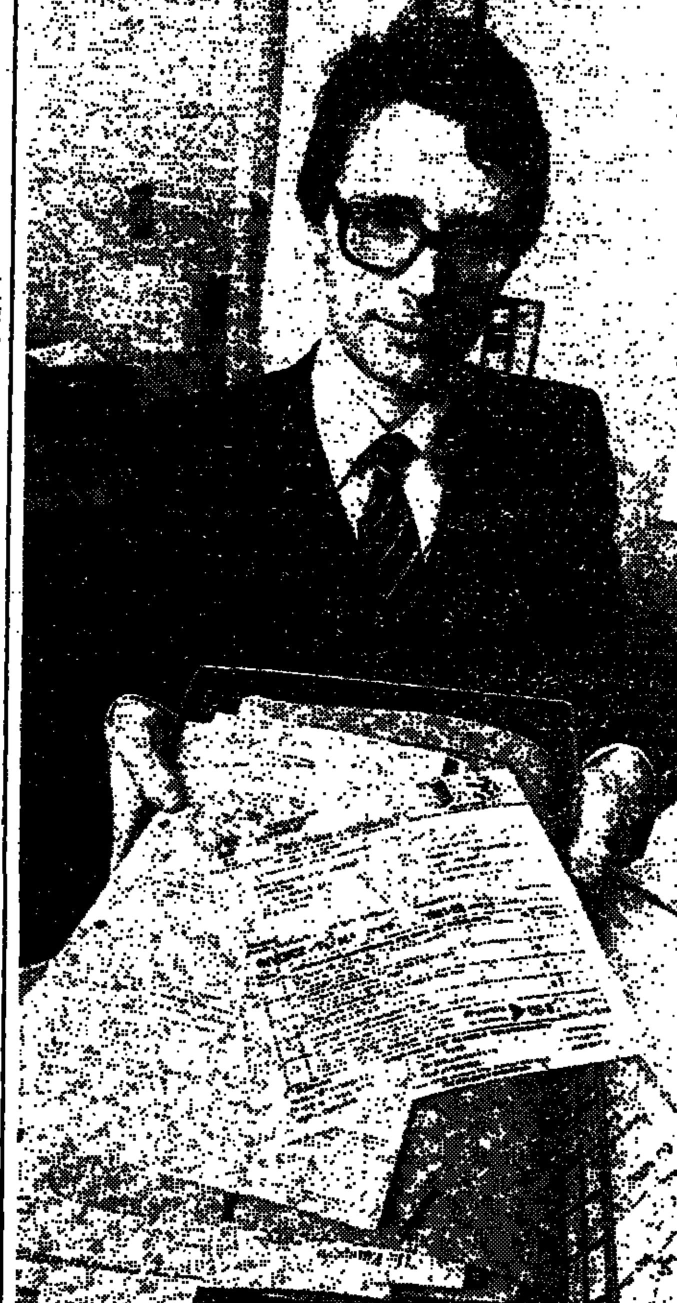
Apart from the share split between ACC and the public, the others include allowing preference for applications from those actually resident in the area, specifications about membership of the board, a stipulation on the separation of the roles of chairman and chief executive, and the creation of two regional boards.

Central will start trading on January 1. It will have a share capital of one million voting ordinary shares of 50p each and 24 million non-voting ordinary shares of 50p each. The issue price of both class of shares will be £1 per share.

Applications have to be in units comprising one voting share and 24 non-voting with a minimum of 10 units or £250.

The prospectus suggests that Central will be fairly well distanced from ACC and Lord Grade. Only two of ACC's non-executive directors, Mr Ellis Birk and Sir Leo Pliatsky, will be on the Central board and then only in a non-executive capacity. In addition ACC will not be guaranteeing any of the financing of Central's operations.

The chairman of Central's board is Sir Gordon Hobday, the retiring chairman of Boots.



Mr George Allan: Cautionary Christmas message

Be like Scrooge is CBI message for Christmas

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Britain's businessmen have been urged to follow the example of Dickens' Ebeneezer Scrooge and be particularly mean this Christmas.

Unscrupulous foreign-based organizations have traditionally used the season of goodwill to siphon off tens of thousands of pounds from unwary British companies by mailing them phoney invoices for goods and services which they have never received or ordered.

Mr George Allan, a legal adviser at the Confederation of British Industry, says that each Christmas heralds a wave of phoney invoices from companies in this country and abroad who, he says, make a fat profit from the gullibility of United Kingdom businessmen.

In Christmases past, it was the purveyors of bogus trade directories that creamed off large profits in the United Kingdom. The Unsolicited Goods and Services Acts of the 1970s have helped considerably to clamp down on their activities.

In the latest issue of the CBI's monthly newsletter, Mr Allan emphasizes that real care has to be taken with foreign companies who claim to be producing telex directories.

He has identified two regular despatches of invoices—one based in Cologne and the other in Barcelona.

"These two organizations send large numbers of forms to United Kingdom firms about twice every year. One wave arrives in June and July (when with a bit of luck the key staff are on holiday) and the other in November and December, when business is brisk and large numbers of invoices have to be dealt with", he said.

Mr Allan claims that companies which fail to check thoroughly innocent looking "confirmations" of their "editorial entries" can find themselves paying out up to £1,000. The invoices sent by these companies contravene United Kingdom law but because they are outside the United Kingdom little can be done to stop them.

Companies are being warned by Mr Allan to check carefully all suspicious invoices, to make sure that only one member of their staff is able to authorize directory entries, to consult their trade associations or the CBI, and contact the police immediately there is any suspicion that a United Kingdom based company is involved.

Trafalgar House to sell Express Newspapers

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The *Daily Express* and its associated titles is up for sale. Lord Matthews, chief executive of Trafalgar House and chairman of Express Newspapers, told print union leaders yesterday that the titles he bought three years ago will be sold as soon as a buyer can be found.

Trafalgar House Investments, of which he is chairman, has become "disenchanted" with the indifferent financial operation at Express Newspapers, which was taken over from the Beaverbrook Group for £15m in 1977.

However, there is no early prospect of the closure of the *Daily Express*, nor its sister *Sunday Express*, nor the *Daily Star*, despite heavy losses being incurred by the group.

In the wake of top-level managerial disputes which last week prompted the dismissal of Mr Jocelyn Stevens, the Express managing director, the company is discussing a change in its title to Fleet Newspapers. This would comprise the *Daily* and *Sunday Express*, the *Daily Star* and the Morgan/Grampian publishing group, purchased three years ago at a cost of £23m.

Lord Matthews: Express titles for sale.

In talks with the print union SOGAT last night, Lord Matthews proposed a reconstruction of his publishing enterprises that would involve issuing "free" shares to Trafalgar House shareholders in Fleet Newspapers. This initiative was sanctioned by the provisions of the 1981 Finance Act that earleir this year permitted companies to make changes of this sort to give expensive tax concessions to investors.

Trafalgar House, it is argued, will continue to provide loan stock which could then be converted into shares if a takeover bid is finalized, and this would give existing proprietors the final say in takeover and merger negotiations.

There are still strong suggestions that Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail*, wants to link up with the Express group to publish one daily paper, with policies sympathetic to the present Government.

Mr Stevens was dismissed from the Express group management last week as the search for a new identity came to a head. His plan for a takeover of the newspaper, by a consortium headed by himself and using staff pension funds and cash available within the print unions, came to nothing.

In the nervous atmosphere surviving the boardroom coup at Epress Newspapers, the print unions are unwilling to venture what comes next. But they take some comfort from company statements that all titles will be kept in being. They are asking the company to put this publication pledge into writing.

Tin market causing concern

By Michael Prest
Economics Correspondent

Concern is mounting at the reluctance of the London Metal Exchange authorities to intervene in a disorderly tin market. Most traders are advising clients to keep out.

Persistent buying of spot tin yesterday pushed up the cash price by £35 to £8,390 a tonne. But a £272.50 increase in the three-months price cut the backwardation—the reverse of the normal premium of forward over cash prices—to £180.

It has been pointed out that no corner has been made in tin, even though the buyers have obtained an estimated 80 per cent of the LME's record stocks of 18,700 tonnes since July.

Some traders are advocating cutting the size of the tin contract, currently five tonnes, or even closing the market. So far nobody has publicly presented proposals to the LME committee.

Maclaine Watson are the LME brokers closely associated with the heavy buying. Market sources say that they have acted for Marc Rich, a private metal trading company incorporated in Switzerland but with offices in New York.

Marc Rich have been tin marketing agents for the Malaysian Government.

Nexos joint venture will create new jobs

By Our Industrial Staff

The joint venture planned between Gestetner Holdings and Nexos, the word processing subsidiary of the British Technology Group, is expected to create several hundred new jobs over the next few years. The Government is likely to approve the deal soon.

The integrated business is expected to be called Nexos Gestetner, although final decisions have yet to be taken. The venture represents the core of a new move by Gestetner into modern office systems.

Detailed plans are still confidential but they involve a forecast of a seven-fold increase in production and sales of Nexos word processors.

Gestetner confidently expects a rapid expansion in overseas sales and a build-up of home orders through a new office systems company which will link an enlarged and reorganized production centre at Swindon, to world-wide marketing operations.

BTG owns 90 per cent of Nexos through the National Enterprise Board which earlier this year was merged with the National Research Development Corporation to form BTG. Under the terms of the deal now being negotiated, BTG is expected to retain an equity interest in the new company of between 25 and 30 per cent.

The BTG is required by the Government to dispose of its holdings to private sector interests when commercially practicable and Mr Norman Tebbit, former Industry Minister, is believed to have shown a keen interest in securing a disposal of the group's interest in Nexos before the end of this year.

About half of the £35m funding allocated by the NEB to the Nexos project has been drawn down. The company recorded a £4m loss in the first half of this year.

Those involved in the discussions believe that the venture will produce long-term benefits for both Gestetner and for the taxpayer since through the BTG equity stake the taxpayer will retain a share in the expected growth of the business.

The deal will supplement Gestetner's own technology and, assuming the market predictions are met, exports could provide a useful balance to the growing flood of imported word processors.

Senior executives of the BTG are drafting the organization's next corporate plan which is expected to be submitted to Ministers early next year. The BTG board is awaiting clarification on whether the present legislation which established the NRDC and the NEB will permit the preparation of a consolidated balance sheet for the two organizations.

US Steel delays dumping move

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Dec 1

US Steel has bowed to White House pressure and agreed to delay its planned filing of anti-dumping cases against foreign steelmakers until after a high-level meeting between President Reagan and Mr David Roderick, chairman of America's largest steel company.

At the meeting, tentatively planned for Friday, Mr Reagan will attempt to persuade Mr Roderick to abandon, at least for the next three months, his announced plans to file trade actions against steelmakers in nine countries.

Mr Reagan and his top trade advisers, including Mr Malcolm Baldrige, commerce secretary, and Mr William Brock, United States trade representative, fear the filing of another round of cases against foreign producers could trigger a trade war.

"We've had indications from abroad that this broader action by US Steel will result in prompt retaliation against American exports," a senior White House official said.

The Reagan Administration wants US Steel to wait until the effects of recent Washington actions to cut the flood of low-cost steel imports can be fully assessed.

This month, for example, the Commerce Department filed a series of "warning cases" against foreign steelmakers accusing them of unfair trade practices. There have also been frequent meetings between United States and European Community officials who are attempting to reach a diplomatic solution

Private meetings have been held on both sides of the Atlantic between government officials and heads of steel companies in what is described here as "a jawboning tactic to cool the current crisis", a White House official said.

What the Reagan Administration fears most is the possibility that the filing of a large number of private cases such as those anticipated by US Steel will force it to abandon the trigger price mechanism used to control the flow of steel imports.

Mr Baldrige has said his department has neither staff nor resources to run the programme if many cases are filed.

Meanwhile, a group of American speciality steelmakers has indicated that it too may file complaints against foreign producers.

The group plans to meet key Congressmen tomorrow before announcing action which is expected to be supported by the United Steelworkers Union.

Mr Lloyd McBridge, head of the steelworkers union, is in Washington for labour meetings at the White House. He has become increasingly vocal about the loss of jobs resulting from steel imports which rose 7.1 per cent from September to October and now account for 22 per cent of the total market here.

■ **Stock Markets**
FT Index 530.8 down 7.0
FT Gilts 64.06 down 0.67
FT All Share 311.98 down 3.16
Bargains 16,103

■ **Sterling**
$ 1.9475, down 75 points
Index 91.8 unchanged
New York: $1.9495

■ **Dollar**
Index 105.7 up 0.8
DM 2.2212 up 75 pts

■ **Gold**
$402.50 down $6.50
New York: $406.75

■ **Money**
3 mth sterling 15¼-15
3 mth Euro $ 12 7/16-12 7/16
6 mth Euro $ 12 13/16-13 1/16

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Atkins Bros	8p to 58p
Chesterfield	5p to 360p
Churchbury Est	5p to 660p
Davies & Newmn	5p to 75p
Dixon David	6p to 108p
French T.	5p to 100p
Hanson Trust	7p to 286p
Hargreaves	7p to 42p
Hongkong	25p to 475p
Ldn & Prov Shop	8p to 433p
Lovell Hldgs	5p to 240p
MEPC	10p to 250p
Ranger Oil	5p to 480p
Vosper	5p to 130p
Yarrow	5p to 270p

Falls

Barclays Bank	20p to 453p
Berkeley Exp	26p to 367p
Broken Hill	20p to 625p
Change Wares	3p to 25p
Cons Gold Fields	13p to 474p
Grootvlei	22p to 410p
Haritmex Corp	5p to 56p
Kinross	27p to 602p
Lasmo	15p to 469p
Lloyds Bank	15p to 438p
London Shop	8p to 112p
Midland	15p to 328p
NatWest	15p to 408p
RTZ	13p to 464p
SA Land	13p to 205p

Refinery plan for Eire

A £300m oil refinery is planned at Tarbert, in County Kerry, with a capacity of 150,000 barrels a day. The plan contrasts with closures and cutbacks elsewhere in Europe.

A planning application was lodged by Aran Energy, an Irish company, yesterday. The refinery would create an average of 2,000 jobs each year between 1983 and 1986, according to the company, and would ultimately employ about 400.

It would be built beside the Irish Electricity Supply Board's oil-fired power station at Tarbert and across the Shannon from the board's coal/oil-fired station being built at Moneypoint.

Ireland imports more than 60 per cent of its refined products

Sir Y K Pao's merger in doubt

Doubt has been cast over plans to merge Sir Y. K. Pao's Hongkong property and shipping interests, after the magnate said he no longer supports the reverse takeover proposals which would make World International, the public vehicle for his shipping empire, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown, the predominantly property group wrested from Jardine, Matheson this year.

The proposals were to have been put to shareholders today, but the decision has been put off until next month after the intervention of Mr Robert Fell, the Hongkong Government's Commissioner for Securities, and Jardine Fleming, financial advisers to minority Wharf shareholders.

Financial Editor, page 17

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Private phones legalized

British Telecom is allowing four models of telephone to go on sale in private shops immediately. They will be the first that legally can be sold and attached to the telephone network.

The four—GEC's Contempra, STC's Deltaphone deluxe, Plessey's Mickey Mouse and Thorn-Ericsson's Astrofon—are already offered for rental by Telecom so they do not need technical approval. In the new year British Telecom will start selling telephones itself from "phoneshops" in department stores.

Until an independent approvals process has been established for telephones—and that is not likely to happen before next summer—Telecom will be responsible for approving its competitors' instruments.

Ministers and officials at the Department of Industry are growing impatient about what they see as Telecom's attempt to delay the dismantling of its monopoly. They say that if the pressure from manufacturers and retailers is heavy enough, Telecom will soon be forced to allow private competitors to supply other, more glamorous models in its range, such as Thorn-Ericsson's Ericofon 700 and Gfeller's Eiger.

Hanson profit boosted 27 pc

A big increase in American earnings helped Hanson Trust to report yesterday a 27 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £49.7m. The group is presently engaged with Thomas Tilling in a takeover battle for Berec, manufacturer of Ever Ready batteries.

Group sales were 25 per cent higher at £855.9m. The final dividend is being raised to 8.21p gross, making 14.29p gross for the year, against 1214p. Hanson also announced a 1-for-1 scrip issue.

Financial Editor, page 17

☐ Exchange risk cover on loans made to British companies from the European Investment Bank and the European Coal and Steel Community by the Government is to be maintained for a further two years, subject to a £400m borrowing limit.

US banks trim fall in rates

Expectations of further big falls in American interest rates received a setback yesterday after disappointing money supply figures boosted the dollar on the world's financial markets. Short-term interest rates rose and most leading banks cut their prime lending rates by only a quarter point to 15.75 per cent instead of following Crocker National and Continental Illinois down to 15.5 per cent.

The dollar closed in London up 75 points against the mark at DM 2.2212 and the pound closed 75 points down

☐ Great Portland Estates, the property group headed by Mr Basil Samuel, is asking shareholders for £27m to pay for a development programme. The shares fell 6p to 184p on news of the cash call.

Financial editor, page 17

Allied beer profits rise

Allied-Lyons, the brewers, yesterday announced a 30 per cent rise in pretax profits to £65.5m in the six months to September. The group's three divisions—beer, food and wines, spirits and soft drinks—each recorded profit advances with profits from beer rising to £34.7m against £32.5m, despite the national decline in beer volume and the closure of the group's brewery, Ansells, in Birmingham.

On the food side, J. Lyons increased profits by 34 per cent to £16.5m with nearly half its earnings coming from the United States. Wines, spirits and soft drinks profits rose 31 per cent to £22.4m.

Financial Editor, page 17

TODAY

Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman of British Shipbuilders, gives evidence to the short inquiry into the corporation by the Commons Select Committee on Industry and Trade. United Kingdom official reserves (November); Capital issues and redemptions (November); and advance energy statistics (October). International Air Traffic Association conference on North Atlantic fares, Geneva.

Company results: Ferranti, Phoenix Timber Pilkington Brothers and Matthew Hall.

Over and out

Cables West Coast, a subsidiary of Cable and Wireless, has been ordered to leave Bolivia after 30 years by the three-month-old military government, confirming a decision of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. All telecommunications will now go through Cables' State-owned rival company.

Textile chiefs in plea over imports

By Our Industrial Staff

The Government was attacked yesterday for failing to persuade the European Community to adopt sufficiently firm import controls to save the British textile and clothing industry.

A week before the EEC Council of Ministers meets to decide on terms for renewal of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, Mr Russell Smith, president of the British Textile Confederation, said: "The Community's position at present falls far short of the Government's declared aim of a tough and effective successor to MFA.

"It is therefore essential that, before the Council of Ministers meets, the Government should review its own policy and tactics and should resolve to fight for a toughening of the Community's mandate."

He said it should concentrate on reducing import quotas to 1980 levels and bringing rates of growth down to an average of 1 per cent a year.

"Any failure by the Government to press the need for a toughening of the EEC approach in these critical areas ... will have very serious consequences for the industry, for the British economy and for regions of the United Kingdom already suffering high levels of unemployment", he said.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State for Trade, was presented with similar arguments yesterday at a meeting with the British Textile Employers' Association, whose president, Mr Harry Leach, expressed his disappointment at the Government for settling for 1982 quota rates.

Mr Norman Sussman, of the British Clothing Industries Association, went further, saying: "If this line is maintained the industry will see it as nothing less than a sell-out."

Shipbuilders set to beat £700m orders this year

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

British Shipbuilders is expected to exceed £700m worth of new orders this year.

The corporation announced yesterday that it had won two more export orders, together worth £28m, boosting the value of contracts to £689m with more expected before the end of the month.

The latest orders coincide with announcements by two other public sector concerns of new contracts worth £40m.

The British Steel Corporation's Tubes division is to supply £10m worth of steel linepipe to link Shell Exploration and Production's natural gas liquids plants at St Fergus, Aberdeenshire, and Mossmorran, Fife.

Altogether, BSC is to supply 142 miles of 20-inch diameter pipeline from its Hartlepool pipe mill. The line will take gas liquids from the gas separation plant at St. Fergus to the fractionation plant at Mossmorran.

Rolls-Royce, the State-controlled aero engine manufacturer, is to supply "mini" power stations worth £30m to the Middle East. The electric generating sets, to be built at Anstey, near Coventry, are powered by Olympus turbo-jet aircraft engines and are able to produce 280,000 kilowatts of electricity.

The shipbuilding orders were announced on the eve of Mr Robert Atkinson, the British Shipbuilders chairman, appearing before a Parliamentary Select Committee today. They are for two bulk carriers — one of 35,000 tonnes deadweight, the other of 31,000 tonnes deadweight — to be built at Sunderland Shipbuilders for Panamanian-based owners.

The orders bring the total value of merchant ship orders won by British Shipbuilders this year to almost £380m. In addition, the corporation has won orders for two semi-submersible drilling rigs, worth £139m, and warships, worth almost £170m.

☐ The Austrian electronics group Kapsch is to cooperate with Racal Tacticom in producing Racal military vehicle radios for the Austrian forces. The contract value of around £23m will be shared by the two companies.

Howe outlines aid plan

By Drew Johnston

Expansion of the small business sector will only come about if more would-be entrepreneurs and their advisers understood what help the Government has made available to them, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, told a Business Opportunities conference in Durham yesterday.

This consisted of a number of schemes, including the loan guarantee scheme which made it easier for small firms to find capital, tax changes and steps to ease the administrative burden.

The Chancellor repeated the Government's plan to test the effectiveness of an enterprise allowance which would be paid in place of unemployment benefit to people setting up small businesses.

"It is often said that many unemployed people are deterred from using redundancy money to set themselves up in business because they lose their entitlement to unemployment benefit at a time when they may have little else to live on", Sir Geoffrey said.

Reagan in policy talks with US unions

By Rupert Morris

President Reagan is attempting to repair his badly-damaged links with organized labour this week through a series of briefings at the White House for the heads of nearly 50 trade unions.

The meetings, complete with cabinet-level luminaries and full press coverage, were scheduled hastily late last month after the powerful AFL-CIO, America's largest trade union, broke with tradition and failed to invite Mr Reagan to address its annual conference.

Since then, Mr Lane Kirkland, head of the AFL-CIO, has made numerous statements accusing Mr Reagan of adopting policies designed to aid the rich at the expense of the working class.

His openly hostile remarks about the president have gained Mr Kirkland considerable publicity in recent weeks, prompting the White House to issue invitations to labour leaders for the meetings.

Most important of the meetings will be tomorrow when Mr Reagan is to confer with the AFL-CIO's powerful executive council, comprised of the presidents of 33 major unions.

Labour leaders are expected to confront the president with statements made by Mr David Stockman that the Mr Reagan's policies are really designed to help the rich, who will in turn make investments that will eventually aid the poor.

With unemployment expected to be 9 per cent by the end of the year, union leaders want some sign from Mr Reagan that he also intends to help working people.

But labour is unlikely to be receptive to Mr Reagan's overtures in the opinion of trade union officials, who note that five heads of important trade unions chose to boycott the White House meetings to protest at Mr Reagan's policies.

AA says Europe less efficient

Carmakers 'waste energy'

By Derek Harris

Inefficient energy use by some West European car manufacturers compared with those in Japan could help explain their apparent lack of competitiveness, it was suggested yesterday at a London conference on manufacturing trends in the industry.

Many European manufacturers waste energy at several critical stages of manufacture, Mr Marcus Jacobson, chief engineer of the Automobile Association said. He told the conference, organized by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, that up to a third extra energy was wasted in many European plants which had been built or refurbished in the past two decades.

More than half the production cost of a European car was accounted for by materials and about 30 per cent by manufacturing.

Japanese cars required between 20 per cent and 30 per cent less energy in manufacturing. Because of that many old established European manufacturers both of cars and components faced a difficult future because of the likely rises in the cost of energy.

"A radical reassessment of energy utilization during all phases of production is urgently called for", Mr Jacobson said.

There was little point in modernization and introduction of new technology, such as robotics, unless manning levels were also tackled, he added. British plants tended to sprawl, were widely dispersed and were being operated at uneconomic levels of plant use.

There was scope in north American as well as United Kingdom factories to reduce heat losses and energy consumption, he said.

But Mr Cedric Emery, manager of production and plant engineering at BL's Land-Rover factory at Solihull, near Birmingham, claimed that at Solihull Land-Rover now had a facility which would be in use into the next decade. This plant was as advanced as any in the world for engine production.

Big changes in component supply were forecast by Mr Brian Knibb, European automotive group manager at A T Kearney. Two-thirds of the cost of the average vehicle in Europe went on components from outside suppliers. He forecast that international sourcing of components by European makers would rise from 10 per cent to about 25 per cent.

There would be a reduction of a third in the number of suppliers serving the European industry, he suggested.

Advances in the use of various plastics in car manufacture were described in a number of papers at the conference, including new moulding systems for glass fibre-reinforced plastics. These not only gave design flexibility, high strengh compared with metals and much lighter weight than metals, but had competative tooling costs and moderate finishing costs.

Prototype front and rear doors at Peugeot in plastics showed 37 per cent weight savings on traditional metal construction and on a Ford light truck tailgate the weight saving was 27 per cent. Plastics are also being developed to cope with vehicle parts under high stress.

800 jobs to go at Rockware

By Our Industrial Editor

Scotland and the North West of England are to lose 1,100 jobs in the glass and electronics industries.

Rockware Glass, a subsidiary of the Rockware Group, is to close its St Helens plant at the end of February with the loss of 800 jobs.

Rockware, the United Kingdom's largest volume producer of glass containers has been hit by the shrinking market, Mr James Craigie, company chairman, said. The market has dropped by 16 per cent. The company reported pretax losses for the half year of £1.3m.

At the beginning of last year, 400 jobs were axed at St Helens which has been losing money for several years. The plant is expected to record a loss of about £1.5m this year.

Plessey, the electronics group is to shut its plant at Bathgate near Edinburgh with the loss of 330 jobs. Last month British Leyland announced that it was to make 1,400 workers at its Bathgate plant redundant as part of an overall job-shedding exercise throughout its truck and bus division.

In Oxfordshire, the 200 workers employed at W W Offset, a company run by former Labour MP, Mr Woodrow Wyatt were given notice yesterday as a result of a dispute between the company and the National Graphical Association. Talks are continuing.

On a brighter note, 750 workers employed by the Oxley Printing Group which went into Receivership in August with debts of £10m, learned that their jobs had been saved.

Mr Ian McIsaac, the receiver disclosed that the jobs had been saved following the sale of subsidiary companies and management buy-outs.

IN BRIEF

Japan plans to trade oil stocks

Japan's semi-official National Oil Corporation said yesterday it has proposed that the Government should borrow the equivalent of $11,000m (£5,650m) from Japanese banks over the next seven years to treble the State's oil stockpile.

Japan, which depends almost entirely on imported energy, has a vigorous stockpiling policy in case of emergencies.

The Government's present stocks, held in 35 idle tankers, total 63 million barrels, or 16 days' demand while privately held stocks amount to 110 days' demand.

The corporation plans to spend 40 per cent of its borrowings on building storage bases.

New funds raised

☐ New funds raised on international capital markets in November increased 29 per cent to $15,114m (about £7,763m) from $11,674m in October.

Kenya dam opens

☐ The new Masinga Dam, holding back the waters of the Upper Tana river in Kenya to create East Africa's biggest man-made lake, 30 miles long, is to be opened today. Britain has contributed more than £8m to the £55m cost of the project. Mr Reginald Eyre, Parliamentary Under-Secrertary of State, who is leading a British mission to Kenya, will attend the ceremony.

US vehicle output

☐ The United States car industry will remain depressed in early 1982, but sales of new cars and trucks could increase substantially later if the economy grows and interest rates continue to decline, Mr Donald E. Peterson, president of Ford Motor Company, said yesterday in Detroit.

Refinery fire

☐ Angola's only oil refinery, damaged by fire on Monday, will be out of operation for two months, a spokesman for Petrofina said. Angola has accused South Africa of sending a sabotage squad of white mercenaries to destroy the refinery.

China growth plan

☐ Premier Zhao Ziyang said China planned to increase its economic growth rate to 4 per cent in 1982 from an estimated 3 per cent this year.

Tokyo trade deficit

☐ Japan's customs-cleared trade turned into a $1,080m (£553m) deficit in the first 20 days of November from a $1,170m surplus in the corresponding period of October and compared with $512m deficit a year earlier, the Finance Ministry said.

Japan's customs-cleared trade in the first 10 days of November produced a deficit of $382m against a $995m surplus in the same October period.

Sale of hides

☐ M Pierre Dreyfus the French Industry Minister, and executives of the French footwear industry have signed a three-point plan to smooth out irregularities in the market for hides.

Business failures

☐ The number of bankruptcies in Belgium fell sharply in November. Business failures last month dropped 23 per cent to 339 from a record 441 in October.

Tariff cuts review

☐ Mr Zenko Suzuki, Japanese Prime Minister said today he has ordered his new Cabinet to examine the possibility of speeding up implementation of a 1979 agreement on tariff cuts. The easing of import fees and duties, originally set for 1984, could be advanced by two years to ease Japan's trade frictions with the United States and Western Europe.

Travel agents wait for computer link

By Our Commercial Editor

Up to 15 package holiday operators are likely to be offering computerized information and booking facilities to high street travel agents within 18 months. Well over 2,000 agents are expected to be linked with computer systems within six months.

It could be a lifeline for the travel agents, hit by increasing competition from computor-equipped, direct-sell holiday operators and by a squeeze on profit margins which is driving many agents out of business.

Three tour operators have computerization plans well advanced and up to a dozen more are expected to join the switch to the new technology soon, according to Mr Barry Barnes, a member of the Association of British Travel Agents' study group on computer sales systems.

Mr Barnes is finance director of Olympic Holidays, the pioneer among the package holiday companies in persuading agents to move into selling holidays by computer. Olympic expects to have 1,000 agents fully equipped by Christmas and as many again by the end of next year.

Thomson Holidays, Britain's largest tour operator, and Thomas Cook Holidays have already announced extensive network plans. Thomson is forecasting a computerized hook-up with 2,000 agents by the middle of next year, accounting for 80 per cent of its overall business.

With computerization high street agents can offer customers instant advice on what holidays are available and can input immediate bookings.

A strength of the direct-sell operators, which cut out the high street agents and their commission, is that they are fully computerized. Customers usually book by a single telephone call and the holiday prices are about 8 per cent cheaper than comparable ones sold through high street agents.

Directly sold holidays already account for nearly 10 per cent of all package holiday sales.

It remains to be seen how many agents will be able to afford computerization at a time when they are under great financial pressure. The cheapest computerization system costs just under £400 a year in rental charges.

Shop outlets for Boston

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Boston Trust & Savings, the United Kingdom consumer credit subsidiary of First National Bank of Boston, is speeding up its expansion by opening five new Boston Moneyshops in Debenhams stores this month. The stores are in Dundee, Stockton-on-Tees, Blackburn, Walsall and Plymouth and will bring the number of Moneyshops to 25.

First National Bank of Boston, a leading American bank with nearly £9,000m of assets, entered the United Kingdom consumer credit field in the early 1970s but the agreement with Debenhams marks a big step forward and is likely to be developed if successful.

The Moneyshops do not offer current account facilities but Boston credit customers can cash cheques free.

Business appointments

Deputy chief at Laing Construction

Mr John Renshaw, joint managing director of John Laing Construction, has been appointed deputy chairman of the company and chairman of Laing Management Contracting from January. Mr David Bottom and Mr Oliver Whitehead are to be assistant managing directors of John Laing Construction.

Mr Nigel Vinson is to be a director of Barclays Bank UK from January 1 and remains a member of the bank's Newcastle upon Tyne local board. Mr Stanley Kemp, a regional general manager, becomes a deputy general manager of Barclays Bank UK.

Mr G. S. Abel, managing director of British Road Services Midlands, is appointed group managing director of the Roadline UK group, a subsidiary of the National Freight Company.

Mr A. C. C. Ferguson, deputy managing director, is to be deputy chief executive of Ferodo.

Mr P. E. Presland has been appointed an additional director of C. E. Heath & Co (Advisory Services), and Heath Shipping Services.

Mr Robert D. Botjer, new chief at the Saudi American Bank.

Mr Robert D. Botjer becomes managing director of the Saudi American Bank. He succeeds Mr Michael A. Callen, who has returned to Citibank's New York headquarters in a senior position in the corporation's treasury.

Mr C. J. Parsons, managing director of Brengreen Management Services, has been appointed secretary of Brengreen (Holdings).

Mr C. S. Sproat has joined the board of Barker & Dobson Group as chief executive of the confectionery division.

Mr Michael Knight has become a partner in the Corporate Consulting Group and Colonel Michael Burkham director of research. Sir Charles Carter is to be a director of the international advisory board.

Mr A. G. W. Jackson is to join the partnership of Macfarlanes, solicitors.

Mr A. C. Smith has been appointed a director of R. W. Toothill.

Lord Mark Fitzalan Howard has been elected chairman of The Association of Investment Trust Companies.

Mr Silvano Grimaldi has become sales director of Fiat Auto (UK)'s Lancia brand.

Mr Geoffrey Hughes and Mr Barry R. Buchan are to be directors of Anthony Lumsden & Co.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Allied-Lyons continues to improve

Allied-Lyons has confirmed the benefits of its recent savage rationalization action with an impressive 30 per cent advance in half-year pretax profits to £65.5m and a balance sheet on a healthier footing. In brewery activities Allied managed a 6 per cent rise in beer profits despite the 6 per cent national decline in beer consumption resulting from the squeeze on consumer spending and duty increases. Reduced losses from its Dutch Skol subsidiary, to £500,000 against £2.5m, helped the increase and further benefits are expected over the full year.

Overcapacity in the United Kingdom industry still looms despite five million barrels lost in the United Kingdom market over two years. The Ansells closure took one million barrels out of Allied. And though it will take time to repair the damage, the group believes it can increase its market share. Second-half beer sales are traditionally slacker, but a similar performance is expected.

Profits from J. Lyons continue to improve — by 34 per cent — after last year's loss elimination and a particularly strong performance again came from the United States businesses which produce nearly half the profits.

HALF YEAR TO MID-SEPTEMBER £m

	1981/82	1980/81
Turnover	1,206	1,139
Trading profit	74.6	68.7
Capital profits	7.3	6.7
Investment inc	0.9	1.0
Associated Cos	8.4	5.4
Finance charges	−25.7	−31.3
Pre-tax profit	65.5	50.5
of which:		
Beer	34.7	32.5
Wines, spirits soft drinks	22.4	17.0
Food	16.5	12.3
Unallocated central expenses, etc	−8.1	−11.3

Currency translations continued to move in Allied's favour. A 31 per cent rise from wines, spirits and soft drinks was struck, despite an estimated 10 per cent fall in spirits sales, and further improvement is expected in the second half.

Working capital has increased but borrowings have continued to fall with a £51m drop in loan capital, only partly offset by a £31m increase in overdrafts. Property sales have yielded good profits and will continue apace, though profits on this count are not expected to match last year's £17.3m. Allied could perform on a similar level in the second half unless there are any serious setbacks to consumer spending or interest rates. The market is going for profits of between £125m and £130m. With a final dividend increase of some 20 per cent looking a reasonable bet, the shares would yield 11.5 per cent at 74p.

Hanson Trust

Maintaining its record

While Hanson Trust's takeover record has been less than glittering over the past year, one cannot deny the conglomerate's ability to generate profits. Pretax profits for the year to September 30 show a 27 per cent increase to £49.7m, the 18th successive year of rising profits. The figures bettered market expectations and the shares rose 6p to 285p.

The improvement has come on the back of a big increase in earnings in the United States which has offset a down turn in the group's United Kingdom activities. The United States contributed £39.3m to group profits, against £20.9m the precious year. The corresponding figures for the United Kingdom are £14.8m against £19.3m.

In dollar terms, the United States performance, although still good, looks less spectacular. Converting to sterling at a $1.786 rate, compares with $2.392 the previous year, has been worth about £9m to group profits. Against this, though, one has to put the reverse effects on interest charges on the group's dollar borrowings. The group's overall interest charge rose from £1.1m to £4.4m.

The balance sheet remains strong and cash resources exceed £175m. The funds are there to make futher acquisitions. If the present bid for Berec fails, it will be the fourth unsuccessful takeover bid Hanson has made this year. If it is going to sustain its growth record, it will have to make a successful offer before too long.

Hongkong merger

Marriage deferred

Hongkong's taipans are used to getting what they want on their own terms. It is notable when they do not. Sir Yue-kong Pao has backed down from his proposal to consolidate his shipping and property interests in the colony by a reverse takeover of his World International by Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown, the predominantly property group which he wrested from Jardine, Matheson.

The critics, especially influential and shrewd local Chinese minority shareholders in Wharf, said the deal was being pushed through too quickly and cheaply. The opposition may have surprised Sir Yue-kong. Faced with a choice of improving the terms or risking a face-losing and humiliating defeat when Wharf shareholders came to vote, Sir Yue-kong has clearly decided to give up rather than pay up, at least for the time being.

The case has also been the first big test for Mr Robert Fell, the colony's Commissioner for Securities. His decision to ask for Wharf's shareholder meeting to be deferred and for more information to be provided to minority shareholders effectively stopped Sir Yue-kong railroading through a merger that would have done nothing for Hongkong's image as anything but a cavalier market.

Property

Great Portland takes its opportunity

Great Portland Estate's £27m rights issue of one for six at 162p a share had been well rumoured. Over the past week the shares have slithered from 202p to 190p. After yesterday's announcement they eased further, to 184p. Even so, the recovery in the shares from 154p on Black Monday, September 28 has presented the group with a chance it could not resist to raise money. No doubt the issue will go well. A £27m issue is not large for a group with a market capitalization of nearly £200m though the fact remains that Great Portland's is largely opportunist.

More to the market's liking yesterday was the news that MEPC's net assets per share in the year to last September jumped 87p to 373p. The fall in the pound flattered the Australian component (25p) and there was a fillip at home from valuations of developments just completed. The shares rose 10p to 250p.

● *Markets took the line of least resistance yesterday ahead of today's statement from the Chancellor — and that meant that both gilts and equities gave ground. Not helping in the background was the overnight news of a rather surprising rise in the United Stated money supply. In London period rates in the money markets looked slightly firmer as some operators decided that the failure of the very short term rates to fall was making the cost of running longer paper rather more expensive than they had bargained for. Whether they have jumped the right way may be clearer by this afternoon.*

Peter Hazelhurst

Mr Iguchi's garden shed robots

Tokyo

Mr Toshio Iguchi, 31, is president of a one man company on the outskirts of Tokyo but spends most of his working hours relaxing on the golf course.

His life style might appear incongruous with his startling record for productivity but it serves as an apt example of how a revolution is beginning to overtake Japan's cottage industries — the myriad of small backyard family factories and sub-contractors which forms the base of the country's industrial strength.

Mr Iguchi spends most of his time at a nearby golf course while three rented industrial robots churn out tens of thousands of plastic toy parts a day in his unmanned backyard factory.

"It is marvellous. I have increased my productivity in the factory and reduced my golf handicap to 11 since I dispensed with casual workers and rented the three robots last April," Mr Iguchi explains as he enters the 150 sq yd shed behind his Japanese home in Katsushika, a suburb of northern Tokyo.

The young Japanese entrepreneur says that he used to employ three workers in the neighbourhood to man automatic plastic moulding machines which produce 18 parts of a plastic stop watch for a major toy manufacturer.

The workers had to remove the parts from the moulding machine, cut off surplus strips of plastic and pack the parts in cardboard cartons. These were then shipped to the contractor.

Mr Iguchi says he decided to investigate the possibility of installing robots in the small garden shed earlier this year when he could no longer obtain reliable workers nearby.

"There were many problems. Employees would quit without notice and my wage bill was rising beyond a reasonable level. In the past I was paying each of my three employees 180,000 yen (£425) a month," He says.

Mr Iguchi before a hard day on the golf course

"I am renting each robot for 38,000 yen (£90) a month from a robot leasing company. They don't complain, I don't have to provide them with tea and they can work in the dark. The robots are more accurate and the quality of the finished product is better."

The sporting businessman says that when he first pursued the idea of purchasing robots he was told each would cost 2 million Yen (£5,000). "When I told the manufacturer that the sum was too high they referred me to a robot leasing company which had recently been formed to help the cottage industry and small businessmen" he explains.

Experts inspected his factory and three robots were modified to replace the human workers. The decision changed Mr Iguchi's life.

Each morning he turns on the heaters of the plastic moulding machine at 7 am, then has breakfast while the unit warms up. He fills the storage bins on top of the automatic moulder with raw plastic granules and places large cardboard boxes under the arms of the three robots. The robots are switched on and Mr Iguchi leaves for the golf course.

The robots continue to drop 18 parts into the boxes every 24 seconds.

His wife removes the three boxes of finished parts and replaces them with empty cartons every six hours. "Besides a bit of maintenance that is all I have to do to keep the factory running 14 hours a day," he says.

The robots have been programmed to remove surplus strips from the parts and drop the scrap into separate containers. Scrap plastic is then processed in another machine and recycled into granules again. The robots can be reprogrammed to handle other products.

The factory produces 35,000 parts a day — enough over a month to produce 100,000 toy watches. Mr Iguchi claims he makes about the equivalent of 3.5p profit every 24 seconds while he tries to improve his golf handicap on a nearby fairway.

"I intend to do a lot of skiing this winter," he adds.

Like Mr Iguchi many of Japan's small businessmen and backyard family factories are beginning to rent efficient automated equipment from the newly formed Japan Robot Leasing Company, formed by 24 leading robot manufacturers and financed by the Development Bank of Japan and commercial banks.

In one case the owner of a small garage factory, who has a sub-contract to weld brackets for a large car manufacturer, has dispensed with four casual workers and has installed four welding robots at the back of the house.

He now runs a Sashimi (raw fish) shop at the front of his house while the robots continue to weld car parts in the back garage.

"We buy the robots from the manufacturers and lease them out to small entrepreneurs," says Mr Shinichi Matsuda, president of the leasing company. "Our clients are small or medium size companies which do not want to invest or purchase robots which will become obsolete in five years. They prefer to rent them at the moment. They also want the robots because there is a shortage of labour. It means that skilled workers can move onto other jobs while robots take over dangerous and boring jobs."

Deindustrialization—testing theories

The huge drop in manufacturing output — down by more than a sixth since spring 1979 — has been the most striking feature of the recession. But in the debate about the Government's macroeconomic policies of the past two years, we often lose sight of the fact that the decline in manufacturing is not new.

It has been a persistent feature of the last eight years. In the mid-1970s it was identified by left and right as one of the country's prime economic problems. Many theories were put forward to explain why it was happening.

If we are to understand what is going on and what we ought to do about it, we ought to look again at some longer term explanations which have been put forward for what is going on in the industrial sector.

There are five main explana tions of what has been happening which we should consider.

One is that the problems have been caused by stupid economic policies by the Government, which drove up the exchange rate through high interest rates, incited big pay rises by its tax policy and deflated the domestic economy by cutting its borrowing requirement.

Then there is the North Sea explanation, first put forward by Kay and Forsyth, which says that North Sea oil automatically causes a contraction in manufacturing output.

A third explanation is that of Bacon and Eltis, that growth of the public sector has led to contraction of manufacturing. The fourth is what is usually called the "New Cambridge" explanation, that growing imports eat up the British market and that conventional solutions, such as devaluation, will not stop this. Only import controls can meet the challenge under this scenario.

The fifth explanation is really the mirror image of the first. It says that contraction in manufacturing is a sign that the Government's policies have, at great cost, worked. Useless capacity which had been outdated by the 1973 oil shock has at last been removed and the industrial sector has become more efficient in response to competition.

As an explanation of what has happened in the past two years, the Bacon and Eltis explanation does not work. They argued that the signs of the deindustrialisation of Britain was the shift of workers from the trading to the public sector. By preempting resources the Government was effectively "crowding out" the private sector. Yet public employment has not risen in the past two years; it has fallen.

The million jobs lost in manufacturing have not been to the benefit of extra public service jobs; they have resulted in an increase in unemployment. Bacon and Eltis themselves warned that what was needed was not to cut the public sector but to boost the trading sector.

They wrote: "There would be the certainty of disaster if a Conservative pro-market sector government came to power and just sat back, balanced the budget and let unemployment mount waiting for the market to solve its problems."

What about the idea that North Sea oil has made a decline in manufacturing output inevitable. The argument rests on the fact that we export to pay for our imports. As we no longer have to pay for imports of oil, we can import more of other things and export less of our own manufactures. The manufacturing sector will therefore decline.

As a long term explanation this seems unsatisfactory. It is true that the share of manufacturing in our national output would fall in those circumstances. But that is no reason why the absolute level should go down.

What we ought to expect, unless the domestic economy was at full capacity, would be that manufacturing would take a smaller share of a larger whole, but would not actually contract.

Oddly enough this inadequate explanation fits well in one respect with the experience of the past two years. One consequence of North Sea oil was to make sterling a more attractive currency. Supporters of the theory could argue that the pound went up in 1979 and 1980 because investors realized that Britain would get improving benefits to the balance of payments until 1985.

Yet the movements of the pound in 1981 hardly bear out the theory. When British interest rates were below world levels in the summer, the pound fell. Now that our interest rates are once again high, sterling is strengthening. This points strongly to the conclusion that the appreciation of the pound in 1980 owed more to British monetary policies than to a structural shift in the balance of payments.

What about the "New Cambridge" school of thought which ties deindustrialisation to rising imports? The problem here is that imports were falling at the same time that manufacturing went through the floor. As Sir Alec Cairncross pointed out, without accepting the Cambridge diagnosis of what should be done their definition of what deindustrialisation means has a lot to commend it. But over the past two years, it does not fit as a description of what has been happening.

That leaves us with the following, rather depressing, conclusion. Much of the decline in manufacturing industry in the past two years is unrelated to the structural problems it faced in the early and mid-1970s, whichever version of the various analyses of those problems you subscribe to.

We are left with options one and five. Either the Government is to blame through bad economic policies or it is to be praised for catching up with economic reality.

Either way, the implication is that the manufacturing cannot come back without a reversal of the policies and its disappearance has been caused by the policies.

Whether the Government was right to do what it did or not is something we can only tell in time; though if it was, it ought to be saying that the future lies with the growth of services, not telling workers to accept low pay settlements to hang on to jobs in manufacturing.

But it is a strange irony that a government whose election owed so much to a feeling that manufacturing had been treated too badly should have presided over the greatest industrial recession this century.

R Bacon and W Britain's Economic Problem: Too Few Producers. Macmillan. P J Forsyth and J F Kay: The Economic Implications of North Sea Oil Revenues. Fiscal Studies Vol 1, No. 3 De-Industrialisation, edited by Frank Blackaby, includes a contribution by Sir Alec Cairncross, Master of St. Peter's College, Oxford. published by Heinemann.

David Blake

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	15 %
Barclays	15 %
BCCI	15 %
Consolidated Crds	15 %
C. Hoare & Co	*15 %
Lloyds Bank	15 %
Midland Bank	15 %
Nat Westminster	15 %
TSB	15 %
Williams and Glyn's	15 %

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 13%, up to £50,000 13½%, over £50,000 14%

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E Actual	P/E Fully Taxed
115	100	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	115	—	10.0	8.7	—	—
76	39	Airsprung Group	66	—	4.7	7.1	10.5	14.5
52	21	Armitage & Rhodes	43	—	4.3	10.0	3.6	8.1
200	92½	Bardon Hill	190	—	9.7	5.1	9.2	11.2
104	88	Deborah Services	91	—	5.5	6.0	4.5	8.5
126	88	Frank Horsell	120	—	6.4	5.3	10.8	26.1
110	39	Frederick Parker	60	—	1.7	2.8	26.1	—
110	46	George Blair	46	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	100		7.3	7.3	7.2	10.9
113	59	Jackson Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
130	103	James Burrough	109xd	−1	8.7	8.0	8.0	10.0
334	244	Robert Jenkins	268	—	31.3	11.7	3.7	9.5
59	50	Scruttons "A"	53xd	−1	5.3	10.0	8.2	7.8
224	173	Torday Limited	173		15.1	8.7	6.7	11.5
23	8	Twinlock Ord	13½	—	—	—	—	—
90	68	Twinlock 15% ULS	72xi	—	15.0	20.8	—	—
56	33	Unilock Holdings	32		3.0	9.4	5.7	9.7
103	81	Walter Alexander	79	−1	6.4	8.1	5.2	9.2
263	181	W. S. Yeates	214		13.1	6.1	4.1	8.2

Business Diary: At the sign of the black horse

Bank managers as a breed are as unwilling to part with information they are cash, so I wasn't too surprised to get nowhere with Norman Gilham yesterday.

Gilham, I should explain, is not my bank manager, but according to Robert Fisk, The Times correspondent in Beruit, Gilham unwittingly is the London banker of the Muslim Brotherhood. This the group which admitted responsibility for the explosion in Damascus on Sunday in which more than 60 people were killed.

British Muslims sympathetic to the brotherhood's aims, Fisk wrote yesterday, are invited to send donations to account number 0109448 at the Kilburn and Brondesbury branch of Lloyds at Kilburn High Road, NW6. Gilham is the manager.

When I called yesterday to ask how the account came to be there and how long it would stay, Gilham would say only: "Would you like to get in touch with head office, please?" He said it twice.

"All I can say is that we do have an account at that branch of that number but not of the Muslim Brotherhood name."

"We weren't aware it (the account) was going to be used for what it (the Fisk article) said it was going to be used. Provididing there are satisfactory references we accept an account."

In this case the references apparently were "satisfactory," but the bank declined to discuss yesterday whether it would continue to accept money for the account.

The chairman of Lloyds, whose company logo is the kicking black horse, is Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of the committee of London Clearing Banks.

Keeping calm

It would be hard to find a more reassuring chairman for the Association of Investment Trusts Companies than Lord Mark Fitzalan Howard, whose appointment as Mr John Storar's successor is announced today.

Lord Mark, 47, is one of those City aristocrats whose languid vowel sounds and sympathetic sighs are as delightfully soothing as the manner of the most accomplished surgeon, bank manager or priest.

Over lunch yesterday he refused to be bullied by an insistent BBC journalist into giving the Association a more publicity-conscious image. He preferred to rely on his members' reputation for reliability and competence.

Lord Mark agreed that with more than three-quarters of the investment trusts' capitalization of £10,000 million held by institutions, he would like to attract more individual private investors.

Expert opinion seems to bear out his assertion that over the past five years investment trusts have consistenty outperformed unit trusts.

Most impressive of all, Lord Mark, who is the youngest brother of the Duke of Norfolk, but "not a rich man" revealed that most of his personal investment was in investment trusts.

Stocking tops?

There was one question I felt I had to ask Brian McMeekin yesterday: is he a stockings man or is he a tights man?

McMeekin, I should explain, is the managing director of Thomas Tilling Subsidiary Pretty Polly, which is the biggest name in ladies' branded hosiery, selling about 130 million pairs of hose a year.

'Professionally, I must say I really have no preference so long as they buy them in ever-increasing numbers. I am here to serve", he said.

He rather went for stockings, in particular his own Hold-Up (self-supporting brand).

'In purely male terms I think it's an exciting product.

McMeekin was in London yesterday having left his Sutton-in-Ashfield headquarters for the annual Miss Lovely Legs of Great Britain competition, of which Pretty Polly is principal sponsor.

Twenty ladies with names like Tracey and Jacqui paraded in Pretty Polly tights and stockings as well as other unmentionables, but McMeekin, who is probably blase about ladies' legs, did not act as judge.

He is a good sport nonetheless, for when I asked him what the McMeekin legs were graced by, he didn't hesitate to hitch up a trouser leg and show me a demure medium-short sock not in nylon but in grey cotton.

"I prefer cotton overwhelmingly", he said. "I find wool hot and nylon hot and sticky", and then slipping smartly back into the hosiery professional he is, he added "but of course the wear life of cotton is much less than wool or nylon".

Socking it to them in the ladies' hosiery trade: Pretty Polly managing director Brian McMeekin and some extremely competitive legs at the Miss Lovely Legs of Great Britain competition in London yesterday.

McMeekin told me that despite what lady fashion journalists like to write and their male readers might like to imagine, most women wear tights most of the time, eight or nine pairs of tights being sold to every one of stockings.

"I am sure it is a myth that women are looking over their shoulders all the time at what men would like; it really hardly matters what men think".

For the record I should add that Miss Lovely Legs of Great Britain is last year's runner-up, a secretary aged 20 and part-time model and dancer from Reading, Miss Tracy Rawling.

I can reveal that she "wants to be a success in life", but as to whether she is the tights or the stockings type I do not feel obliged to report.

Miss Rawling received, among other things, 100 pairs of assorted hose yesterday and if the balance is not to her liking she's also got £1,000-worth of prizemoney to buy some more.

Touché

The 750 workers remaining at the Oxley printing group, which went bust in August, produced the offer for sale documents which helped save their jobs.

Oxley's receiver, Ian McIsaac of Touche Ross, yesterday completed the final act of the three-month-long receivership when he signed the documents for a management buy-out at Oxley's former engraving subsidiaries.

Of the 16 Oxley subsidiaries, with reported debts of £10m, McIsaac and his team have seen 14 sold off as going concerns.

"In effect, what has happened is that the 750 workforce is now producing much the same as the 1,300 employed within the group before it failed," he said.

Sir Kenneth Cork, doyen of Britain's receivers and a former Lord Mayor of the City of London, had some words of wisdom yesterday for companies anxious about the future. Launching a helpful new booklet from Dun & Bradstreet called "Cash flow — the key to business survival"; he said: "If your managing director is busy — sack him. He's not paid to be busy, he's paid to think." Business Diary called Sir Kenneth later yesterday to discuss the matter further, but we were out of luck — he was busy chairing a meeting.

Ross Davies

Stock Markets

Sellers depress equities

Sellers gained the upper hand yesterday as the rest of the market nervously awaited the outcome of the Chancellor's economic package today.

Equities drifted throughout the day, mainly on lack of interest as investors postponed their next move until the details of the package could be analysed. The *FT* Index closed 7.0 lower at 530.8, after being 7.9 down at midday.

In gilts, profit-taking was also the key word, with still no sign of a cut in domestic interest rates and the latest money supply figures in the US proving worse than expected. The tight conditions in the money market were also a reason for selling by the big institutions with losses of up to £¼ in longs and £½ in shorts reported at the close.

Blue chips reflected the nervous conditions. ICI lost 6p to 290p, Beecham 5p to 216p, Glaxo 8p to 420p, Unilever 7p to 613p Bowater 4p to 212p, Courtaulds 2p to 72p, GKN 4p to 171p, Hawker Siddeley 6p to 318p, and P & O,D'fd 3p to 123p. John Brown also fell 3p to 78p after a seller of 5m shares was reported earlier in the week.

Properties had a day of mixed fortunes, turning sharply easier after confirmation of the widely expected £27m rights issue from Gt Portland, down 6p at 184p. However, they recovered slightly as the day wore on, encouraged by the better-than-expected profits surge at MEPC, 10p stronger at 250p.

The possibility of being forced to pay interest on current accounts saw the big four banks boil over after their recent strong run. Barclays plunged 20p to 453p, Midland 15p to 328p, Lloyds 15p to 438p and National Westminster 15p to 408p. Royal Bank of Scotland eased 4p to 184p still awaiting the outcome of the Monopolies Commission's report into the contested bids by Hongkong and Shanghai and Standard Chartered. Standard also lost ground, falling 12p to 657p, amid suggestions that it may be forced to raise its price once the findings are made public.

Greenbrook Securities, a private company, has sold its 19.5 per cent stake in East Lancashire Paper. Brokers Hoare Govett were reported to have successfully placed with institutions 975,000 shares at 52p worth £507,000. East Lancs closed 2p lower at 50p.

A healthy set of full-year figures and a one-for-one scrip issue boosted Hanson Trust 7p to 286p. Hanson is fighting Thomas Tilling for control of Berec. Hopes of a higher offer by Hanson, whose bid has been extended to December 14, put 1p on Berec at 133p, after 135p.

Meanwhile, figures from Allied-Lyons were at the upper end of expectations, but with a big bull account already established, profit-taking left the shares 1½p lower at 74p. Favourable trading statements were also good for 8p on Atkins Bros at 58p, 6p on David Dixon at 108p, 7p on Hargreaves Group at 42p and 30p on Home Brewery at 555p. But the market took a sterner view of the performances of Sangers, down at 32p and Tecalmit, 6p lower ot 37½p.

The absence of a dawn raid saw Rank Organisation slide 6p to 156p, while in oils Berkeley Exploration lost 266p to 367p after recent strong performance.

Shares of Equipu made their debut on the Unlisted Securities Market with a 3p premium over the offer price of 80p. Nimslo, which began trading on Monday in the USM, fell another 10p to 165p — making a fall so far of 45p on the placing price of 210p.

Equity turnover on November 30 was £110.283 (13,926 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: MEPC, Allied-Lyons, Berkeley Exploration, Brengreen, Hanson Trust, Barclay Bank, Gt Portland, BP, Tecalmit, Eagle Star and Charter Cons.

Traded options: Total contracts amounted to 965, of which Courtaulds accounted for 187.

Traditional optionssaw calls in NNC on 12p, Town & City on 2½p and Tozer Kemsley on 8p. A double was made in Royal Bank of Scotland on 36p.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Allied-Lyons (I)	1,206(1,139)	65.5(50.5)	6.5(5.3)	2(2)	5/3	—(5.0)
Atkins Bros. (I)	5.42(5.61)	0.15(0.064)	—(—)	1.3 5(1)	—	—(4.65)
Brit. Benzol (I)	4.4(6.7)	0.09(1.3a)	1.0(13.7a)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Cardiff Prop. (F)	—(—)	0.028(0.055)	1.6(2.6)	1(1)	1/2	1.6(1.6)
Charter Cons. (I)	—(—)	34.1(31.2)	21.1(18.4)	3.75 (3.4)	7/1	—(10.0)
James Crean (F)	44.9(35.9)	1.52(2.18)	12.7(21.38)	5(4.82)	—	7(6.82)
David Dixon (I)	6.12(5.2)	0.1(0.077)	5.9(2.9)	2.2(2.2)	—	—(9.95)
Hanson Trust (F)	855.9(684.3)	54.1(40.2)	31.2(23.2)	5.7(4.7)	5/2	10(8.5)
Grant Bros. (I)	4.34(4.88)	0.24a(0.19a)	22.09a(8.6a)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Hargreaves (I)	106.6(107.5)	1.99(2.43)	4.1(5.8)	1.6(1.6)	28/1	—(2.75)
Highams (I)	8.67(9.33)	0.22(0.3)	—(—)	0.8(0.8)	1/1	—(3.58)
Home Brewery (F)	—(—)	6.19(5.1)	—(—)	5.3(4.5)	—	7.3(6.5)
Leeds Dyers (F)	7.39(9.1)	0.71(0.7)	11.3(13.4)	2.5(2)	—	3.5(3.0)
MEPC (F)	—(—)	26.8(20.9)	9.2(7.5)	4.5(4)	21/1	6.5(5.75)
Moorgate Merc. (I)	4.62(4.26)	0.26(0.16)	1.0(1.03)	0.3(0.25)	5/2	—(0.9)
Ocean Wilsons (I)	23.9(24.6)	1.87(2.31)	3.18(4.35)	0.75(0.75)	29/12	—(2.6)
Rexmore (I)	15.07(19.14)	0.2(0.32a)	2(3.25a)	0.525(0.5)	20/1	—(1.0)
Rowlinson Cons. (I)	—(—)	0.32(0.044)	—(—)	0.18(0.18)	—	—(0.6)
Sangers (I)	60.1(64.14)	1.03a(0.46)	11.2a(2.19a)	—(—)	—	—(1.8)
Tecalemit (I)	25.7(26.7)	0.6(1.2)	—(—)	0.8(1.04)	8/1	—(2.08)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. a=Loss.

Hutchison Whampoa fails to agree sale

The Hongkong trading house Hutchison Whampoa is reverting to original plans to make Harbour Engineering a wholly owned subsidiary by acquiring the 21.63 per cent stake it does not already own.

Discussions with Hongkong Engineering and Construction about buying HWL's 78.37 per cent stake in Harbour Engineering have ended with the two sides unable to agree terms.

In June, HWL announced its intention to buy out the minority shareholders in four companies in which it held a controlling interest.

Wiggins-Newarthill

Talks are on which may lead to a merger of the contracting business of Gee Walker and Slater, a subsidiary of Newarthill, with that of the Wiggins Group. This would mean Gee becoming fully owned by Wiggins. Newarthill holds about 14 per cent of Wiggins' capital (held through Gee) and, before completion, these shares, together with completed contracts, would be transferred to other parts of Newarthill.

Case oversubscribed

S. G. Warburg, the merchant bank, yesterday said that application lists in connexion with the offer for sale of 2.5m ordinary shares of 20p each in Computer and Systems Engineering (Case) closed at 10.01 am heavily oversubscribed.

An announcement will be made today giving details of the basis for allotments, and dealings are expected to begin early next week.

J Crean tumbles

In spite of turnover rising from Ir £35.9m to Ir £44.9m, pretax profits of James Crean, the Dublin-based industrial group, slumped from Ir £2.18m to Ir £1.52m in the year to June 30. But the board is optimistic that group earnings for the year will be significantly higher than 1980-81; in view of this, the total dividend for the year is being raised from 9.75p to 10p gross.

Charter boosts its profits

By Michael Prest

Charter Consolidated, the mining and finance group, yesterday bucked the trend of falling industrial profits and mining dividends by recalling an increase in pretax profits from £31.3m to £34.1m in the six months to September 30.

The dividend was also raised, from 4.85p gross last year to 5.35p gross. Charter paid 14.28p gross for the whole of its previous year, when pretax profits were £53.7m or £1.4m more than in 1980.

Since then, the company has been pursuing its policy of building up industrial holdings and reducing its emphasis on mining. Nevertheless, the biggest increase in the first half of the year was the £2.3m more earned from realization of investments, which totalled £9.3m.

Most of the larger proceeds from investment realization came from the sale of Charter's 11.4 per cent holding in Haw Par, the Singapore trading and financial service group. That sale brought in £13m gross.

Trading profits from operating subsidiaries was very slightly down at £8.84m, despite including about four months' earnings from Alexander Shand, the manufacturer of mining machinery.

Cape Industries, the building materials and engineering group, suffered from the decline in demand for insulation materials. Heatrae-Sadia, a maker of heating and industrial catering equipment and MKR, the electrical equipment company, also returned lower profits.

Among the operating subsidiaries, Pandrol, which makes railway servicing machines, improved its results. There was also a £1.37m improvement in retained profits from associated companies, chiefly Johnson Matthey.

Earnings per share in the last full year were 31p.

No Sangers payout after midyear loss

By Drew Johnston

Sangers, the pharmaceutical, photographic and agencies group, in which financier Mr Tom Whyte has a near 20 per cent stake, yesterday announced just over £1m of losses for the half year to August 31. This compared with a £463,000 profit for the same period last year. Turnover also fell, by £4m to £60.16m, and no half-year dividend has been paid. The directors have said that though a programme of rationalization is continuing, no final dividend payment is likely either.

When Mr Whyte first started building his stake in the company over four months ago, the shares stood at 80p. By yesterday they had slumped to 32p.

Mr George Robinson, the chairman, said the main difficulties had been in the pharmaceutical division, the mainstay of the group. The division increased its market share compared with the second half of last year and the loss was held at a similar level at £636,000, against £632,000 last year.

A severe reduction in the division's gross profit margin over the past three years has occurred, and we are currently trading at about half the previous gross profit

Tecalemit profit halved

By Our Financial Staff

Pretax profits of Tecalemit, the Maidenhead-based manufacturer of filtration systems and garage equipment, were halved to £593,000 in the six months to October 9. After a relatively low tax charge, the attributable profits were £545,000 against £842,000.

In light of the results, and given the present economic climate, the board has decided to cut the dividend from 1.48p gross to 1.14p gross.

The fall in profits, with the trading figures down from £1.4m to £788,000, was partly a reflection of a 10 per cent drop in turnover to £25.7m.

There were two other reasons for the drop in profits. The French offshoot, Fogautolube, was affected as customers held off from ordering after the presidential elections. Also, the combustion engineering division suffered a low demand for oil and gas burners in the United Kingdom and West Germany.

Mr F. C. de Paula, the chairman, says in his half-yearly report that the group is continuing its policy of stringent cost control but is still investing in advanced production equipment, as well as in electronic and other new projects.

British Benzol recovers

By Our Financial Staff

British Benzol Carbonising, the Newport-based manufacturer of coke and smokeless fuel, has staged a sharp recovery in turning fairly heavy losses into profits in the first half.

To the end September the group made a profit of £92,000 before tax against a loss of £1.3m in the first half of 1980-81 and a deficit of £2.7m for the whole of the year. Sales fell from £6.7m to £4.4m. For the whole of 1980-81 sales were £13.7m.

Mr W. J. C. Douie, chairman, says in his half year report: "The market for our products remains volatile and depressed. Increased efficiency at our plant in South Wales has reduced costs and our continued attention to quality control has enabled us to improve our sales performance and our financial results.

Current levels of profitability are inadequate and efforts continue to gain further improvement.

Bid for Australian newspaper group

Bell Group, the company controlled by the Western Australian entrepreneur Mr Robert Holmes a'Court, has bid for 50.1 per cent of Herald and Weekly Times, one of Australia's biggest newspaper groups, publisher of the *Sydney Herald*.

The bid values the Herald group at A$263m (£140m). Bell is offering one of its ordinary shares and A$7 in cash for every four ordinary Herald shares. It values Herald shares at A$2.78 each, compared with about A$2.48 on the Sydney stock market.

Mr Holmes a'Court has recently bought 50.1 per cent of non-voting Associated Communications, the company controlled by Lord Grade.

The new bid will be subject to approval by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal because both parties have radio and television interests.

First French 'bulldog' loan

The French motorway finance agency, Caisse Nationale des Autoroutes, is raising £30m with a 25-year "bulldog" bond, the first issue by a French borrower on the bulldog market. It brings to £515m the total raised through bulldog issues since July, 1980, after the abolition of exchange controls. Kleinwort, Benson is arranging the issue by way of a placing and the yield will be set today at 1.15 per cent above the redemption yield on three long gilts.

Meanwhile, the eight-year syndicated credit for the Irish Republic, lead-managed by NatWest, has been raised from £100m to £120m because of strong demand.

Wall Street

New York, Dec 1 — Turmoil in oil shares sapped much of the market's strength and prices ended the day mixed.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped more than four points during the day but then changed direction near the close to finish up 1.24 at 890.22. Decline continued to lead advances, however, by around 860 to 670. Volume widened to some 54 million shares from 47.58 million yesterday.

Analysts said the market was due for some profit taking after the 37 point run up in the Dow Jones over the last four sessions.

	Dec 1	Nov 30		Dec 1	Nov 30		Dec 1	Nov 30
Allied Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]	Fst Nat Boston	[illegible]	[illegible]	Proctor Gamble	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]	Fst Penn Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pub Ser El & Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allis Chalmers	[illegible]	[illegible]	Ford	[illegible]	[illegible]	Raytheon	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alcoa	[illegible]	[illegible]	GAF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	RCA Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amax Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Dynamics	[illegible]	[illegible]	Republic Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amerada Hess	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Electric	[illegible]	[illegible]	Reynolds Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Airlines	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]	Reynolds Metal	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Brands	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Mills	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rockwell Int	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Broadcast	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Motors	[illegible]	[illegible]	Royal Dutch	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Can	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Pub Util NY	[illegible]	[illegible]	Safeways	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Cyanamid	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Tel Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]	St Regis Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Elec Power	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Tire	[illegible]	[illegible]	Santa Fe Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Home	[illegible]	[illegible]	Genesco	[illegible]	[illegible]	SCM	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Motors	[illegible]	[illegible]	Georgia Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]	Schlumberger	[illegible]	[illegible]

Commodities

COPPER was easier.—Afternoon —Higher grade cash, £855-56, three months £869-69.50. Sales 6,675 tonnes. Cash standard cathodes, £850-51, three months, £865.50-66.00. [illegible]

COFFEE.—ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne) Jan, 1076-1077. March, 1063-1064, May, 1062-1065, July, 1060-1063, Sept, 1060-1062, Nov, 1057-1062, Jan, 1060-1065.

COCOA (£ per metric ton).—Dec, 1097-1099, March 1103-1104, May, 1109-1110, July 1118-1119, Sept, 1125-1127, Dec, 1140-1145, March, 1148-1160. Sales 2,352 lots including four options. ICCO prices daily (Nov 30) 93 19c; indicator prices (Dec 1) 5-day average 92 97c (US cents per lb).

SUGAR.—The London daily price of [illegible]

RUBBER (pence per kilo):—Jan 52.40-52.50; Feb, 52.40-55.40; Jan-March, 52.40-52.50; April-June, 56.20-56.30; July-Sept, 59.50-59.60; Oct-Dec, 62.70-62.90; Jan-March, 65.90-66.20; April-June, 69-69.30; July-Sept, 71.90-72.00. Sales: three at five tonnes; 295 at 15 tonnes.

RUBBER PHYSICALS.—Spot, 51.50-53.00. Cifs: Jan, 51.75-52.25; Feb, 52-52.75.

All prices quoted are for bulk delivery in Keyes trays. The above range is a guide to general market conditions and is dependent upon location, quantity and whether delivered or not.

In India and Australia a day on which the home countries' bowlers delivered the knockout blows

England's hopes go up in Bombay smoke

From Richard Streeton
Bombay, Dec 1

India gained a thoroughly deserved victory in the first Test match here today after England's second innings came close to being a debacle. Some marvellously sustained pace bowling by Kapil Dev and Madan Lal, who each took five wickets, brought India a remarkable triumph by 138 runs with almost nine hours to spare.

England, needing 241 with time no object, collapsed to 42 for five after an hour on an awkward pitch and were finally dismissed for 102. A succession of firecrackers thrown on to the field and the ceaseless roars of encouragement from the 30,000 crowd made it an occasion when Test cricket reverted to the frenzied atmosphere of Roman circus.

There can be no question that England batted poorly, showing little spirit and less technical application than expected. Underwood and Willis, the tenth-wicket pair, shared the largest stand of the innings and needed far more prising out than the recognized batsmen. The wicket had lost some of its earlier bounce but the ball did keep dreadfully low at one end.

It was, frankly, not a good pitch for a five-day Test and it proved a good toss for Gavaskar to have won. Even so it was disheartening for England to be routed by two medium-fast bowlers, the type they are supposed to play so well. No one attempted a sweep and Doshi bowled only one over just before the end ; there were no umpiring controversies. One way and another the pattern was almost inexplicable and certainly unexpected.

Kapil Dev bowled with great hostility for a man who went into the match with a suspect back. He obtained lift and movement and removed Gooch, Tavaré and Gower in his first four overs at a cost of only 17 runs, by when England's challenge was snuffed out. As an all-rounder he is the Indian equivalent of Botham in his approach and in the way he is always in a match with bat or ball.

The form of the 30-year-old Madan Lal was more of a revelation. Recalled after a four-year absence from Test cricket, he benefited from the end where the ball often kept low, but his accuracy and perseverance had to be admired. At lunch, when England were 57 for six from 15 overs, Madan Lal's analysis was 7—4—8—3, with Boycott, Fletcher and Emburey his victims.

England's innings lasted 128 minutes and only just escaped being their lowest against India ; they scored 101 at the Oval in 1971 when Chandrasekhar was the wrecker. Their previous lowest in India was 159 at Madras in 1972-73 when Bedi and Prasanna each took four wickets.

England now have a three-day match against a strong South Zone side at Hyderabad next weekend before they go into the second Test at Bangalore on December 9. Not surprisingly the Indian selectors have announced an unchanged 12 for that match. Fletcher said he was conscious he faced his hardest task as captain to lift his side's morale and ensure that nobody became downhearted.

Nothing which happened first thing prepared anyone for England's inept showing later. Madan Lal and Doshi, India's last two batsmen, added a further 24 runs in 35 minutes before India were all out for 227. Both played straight and pushed forward confidently to Willis and Botham, who finally bowled Doshi.

England had more than 10 hours to score the runs and we resigned ourselves to a routine new ball spell from Kapil Dev and Madan Lal before Doshi and Shastri, the two left-arm spinners, were brought on to decide matters one way or the other. A dramatic start, however, altered the thinking. Gooch and Boycott each took a single from Kapil Dev's first two balls. Gooch played and missed at the third ball and did the same to the fourth, which left him late ; he got the thinnest of edges and was caught by Kirmani. The Indian wicketkeeper has shaved his head to mark a pilgrimage to Mecca since English crowds last saw him, but he is as sound a wicketkeeper as ever.

When Tavaré, with little movement of his feet pushed forward and edged a low catch to second slip from the second ball of Kapil Dev's second over, veteran England watchers knew the writing was on the wall. The first firecrackers, leaving a pall of smoke each time they were thrown on to the field, and the crowd erupted as one.

Gower bore the look of casual impermanence that so worries his admirers. He played some good strokes off his legs but flirted like everyone else outside the off stump and was almost caught at leg slip on one occasion from a glance. It was not altogether a surprise when Gower was leg-before to Kapil Dev with the total 28. The ball came back into him sharply as he offered no stroke and it struck him fairly high on the leg.

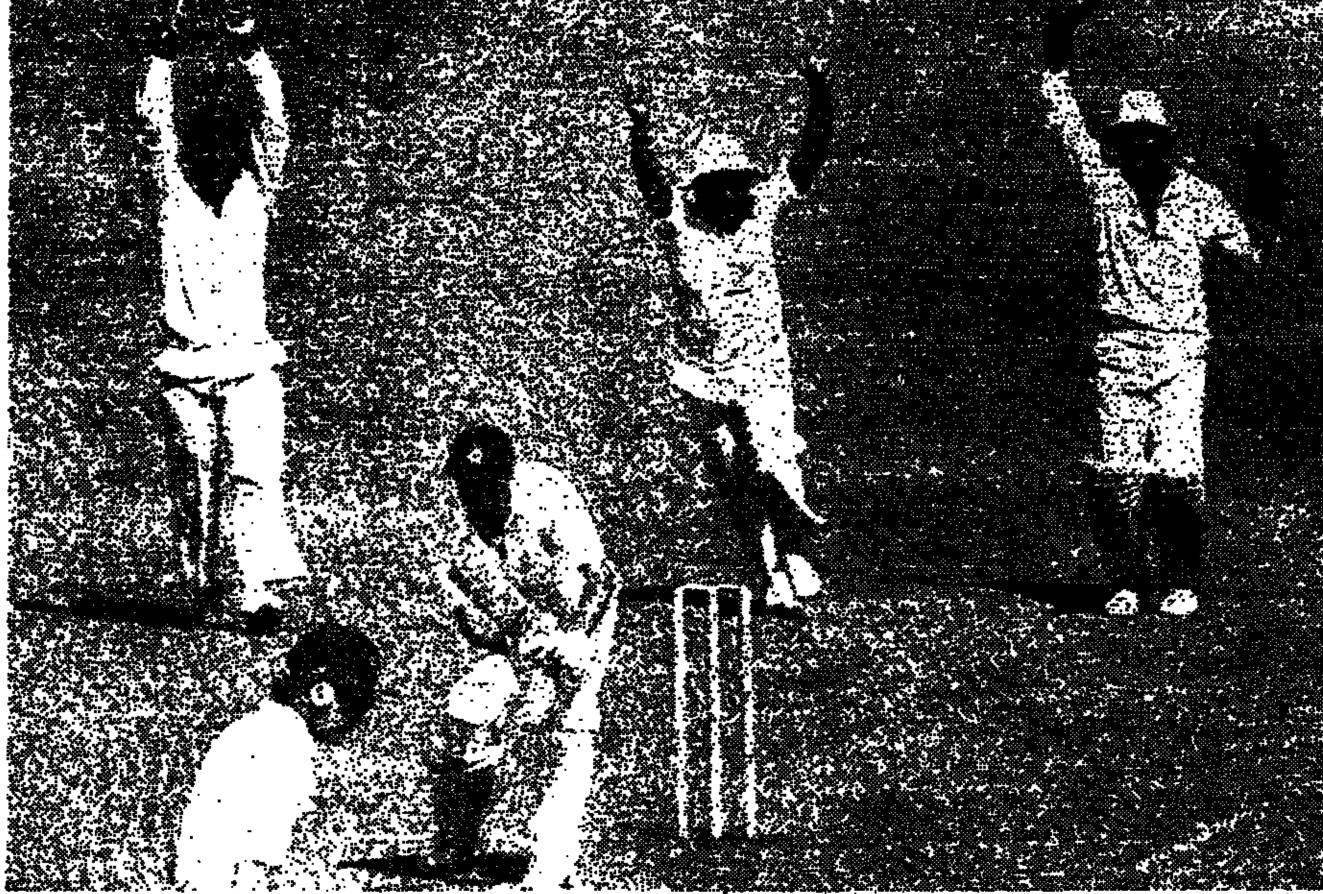
Boycott had watched these disasters impassively at the other end, applying himself to strict defence when he had the bowling, but there was little he could do against the ball that dismissed him. Madan Lal, burly and smiling, got one to keep low and break back and Boycott was plumb in front. Two overs later Madan Lal did something similar to Fletcher, though the England captain was much further on his back foot.

Botham began with a couple of edged strokes, but a four past cover on the back foot, which took England to 50 in the thirteenth over, was a magnificent stroke. Emburey, who had already given a sharp chance to point off Kapil Dev, was out in Madan Lal's next over. He stretched forward defensively and was caught at second slip. Madan Lal had claimed three for one in 20 balls.

An uppish cover driven four by Botham off Kapil Dev took him to 19 and meant he had passed 2,000 runs in test cricket and joined Benaud and Sobers as the only men in Test history to pass 2,000 runs and 200 wickets. Normally it would have been a celebratory occasion, but nobody in the English camp could find the heart to cheer. It remains, of course, a remarkable feat by Botham, who is only just 26 and playing in his forty-second Test match. Botham had taken five wickets in an innings for the eighteenth time when he finished off the Indian innings (nine in the match)

After lunch Botham on-drove Kapil Dev for a superb six, but the next ball lifted and was hit into wide mid-off's hands. Madan Lal beat Taylor's defensive prod in the next over. Dilley bravely swung Kapil Dev for two fours, but Madan Lal knocked down his middle stump and England's last wicket pair were launched on their defiant last gesture. Although the bowlers were now tired, the way Willis and Underwood defended with strict text book correctness and pulled, glance and pushed runs when they could was commendable. Willis was finally caught behind off Kapil Dev and lingered for a moment at the wicket in disbelief as the Indian team raced for the pavilion through a crescendo of noise and firecrackers.

The celebrations continued long after the man of the match awards had been presented. One of Kapil Dev's prizes as overall man of the match was a motor cycle and this was triumphantly ridden round the out field by Shastri. Gavaskar, the Indian captain, had the nets erected and took some practice, an ominous dedication to English onlookers.



India rejoice : Gavaskar (left), Viswanath and Kirmani celebrate the dismissal of Boycott by Madan Lal.

Test scoreboard

INDIA: First Innings, 179 (S M Gavaskar 55; G R Dilley 4 for 47, T Botham 4 for 72).

Second Innings

*S M Gavaskar, c Taylor b Botham	14
K Srikkanth, run out	13
D B Vengsarkar, c Tavaré, b Botham	5
G R Viswanath, c Taylor, b Botham	37
S M Patil, l-b-w, b Botham	13
R J Shastri, l-b-w, b Dilley	33
K Azad, l-b-w, b Emburey	17
Kapil Dev, l-b-w, b Willis	46
†S M H Kirmani, c Taylor, b Emburey	0
S Madan Lal, not out	17
D R Doshi, b Botham	7
Extras (b 8, l-b 8, n-b 9)	25
Total	227

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—19, 2—24, 3—43, 4—72, 5—90, 6—138, 7—145, 8—157, 9—203, 10—227.

BOWLING: Willis, 13—4—31—1; Botham, 22.3—3—61—5; Dilley, 18—5—61—1; Underwood, 11—4—14—0; Emburey, 13—2—35—2.

ENGLAND: First Innings, 166 (G Boycott 60, C J Tavaré 56; D R Doshi 5—39).

Second Innings

G A Gooch, c Kirmani, b Kapil Dev	1
G Boycott, l-b-w, b Madan Lal	3
C J Tavaré, c Gavaskar, b Kapil Dev	0
D I Gower, l-b-w, b Kapil Dev	20
*K W R Fletcher, l-b-w, b Madan Lal	3
T Botham, c Azad, b Kapil Dev	29
J E Emburey, c Gavaskar, b Madan Lal	1
G R Dilley, b Madan Lal	9
†R W Taylor, b Madan Lal	1
D L Underwood, not out	13
R G D Willis, c Kirmani, b Kapil Dev	13
Extras (b 4, l-b 3, n-b 2)	9
Total	102

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—2, 2—4, 3—28, 4—29, 5—42, 6—50, 7—73, 8—74, 9—75, 10—102.

BOWLING: Kapil Dev, 13.2—0—70—5; Madan Lal, 12—6—23—5; Doshi, 1—1—0—0.

Umpires: Swaroop Kishan and K B Ramaswamy.

Pakistan are let down by senior batsmen

From Peter McFarline
Brisbane, Dec 1

Australia won the second Test against Pakistan today by 10 wickets after Pakistan collapsed in their second innings for 223. Australia thus needed only three runs for their second victory in the three-match series.

The Pakistan batsmen performed miserably after an encouraging start of 72 by Mohsin Khan and Mudassar Nazar ; but once the irrepressible Lillee had claimed both their wickets in the first 40 minutes there was little resistance from the senior batsmen. The off spinner, Yardley, broke the back of the batting when, in one over, he took the wickets of Majid Khan and Zaheer Abbas to make the score 115 for four. Both played inexcusable shots and could blame themselves for their downfall.

A stand of 62 in 83 minutes for the fifth wicket between the captain, Javed Miandad, and the left hander, Wasim Raja, gave Pakistan some hope of a draw, but Lillee came back to dismiss both of them in his eighteenth over. Yardley and Thomson took two wickets apiece in the late order and the innings ended at tea on 223 after Australia had led by 221 runs on the first innings.

Lillee's four for 51 from 19 overs gave him match figures of nine for 132 and took his Test match tally to 305 wickets, only four short of the record held by Lance Gibbs. During the afternoon Chappell took his 100th Test catch ; only Cowdrey (120), Simpson, Hammond and Sobers (all 110) and Ian Chappell (105) are ahead of him.

The Pakistan collapse was difficult to explain, although the pitch at times gave an uneven bounce. Only Mohsin, who was a late addition to the team, batted with any attempt at responsibility, making 43 in two hours.

PAKISTAN: First Innings, 291 (Zaheer Abbas 80: D K Lillee 5 for 81).

Second Innings

Mudassar Nazar, c Laird, b Lillee	[illegible]
Mohsin Khan, c Marsh, b Lillee	[illegible]
Majid Khan, c Chappell, b Yardley	15
*Javed Miandad, l-b-w, b Lillee	38
Zaheer Abbas, l-b-w, b Yardley	0
Wasim Raja, b Lillee	36
Imran Khan, c Wellham, b Yardley	3
Ejaz Faqih, c Chappell, b Thomson	21
Sarfraz Nawaz, c Alderman, b Yardley	11
Wasim Bari, not out	4
Sikander Bakht, b Thomson	2
Extras (b 2, l-b 3, n-b 9, w 1)	15
Total	223

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—72, 2—[illegible], 3—115, 4—115, 5—177, 6—178, 7—189, 8—216, 9—219, 10—223.

BOWLING: Lillee, 19—4—51—4; Alderman, 15—3—37—0; Thomson, 15—3—43—2; Yardley, 24—4—77—4.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 512 for 9 dec (G S Chappell 201, G M Wood 72; Imran Khan 3 for 92).

Second Innings

G M Wood, not out	0
B M Laird, not out	3
Total (no wkt)	3

BOWLING: Imran, 1.2—1—2—0. Sikander, 1—0—1—0.

Umpires: A R Crafter and M W Johnson.

Dennis Lillee, who missed Australia's first two World Series Cup matches because of suspension, returns to their 12 for the games against Pakistan in Adelaide on Sunday and in Sydney next Tuesday. Reuter reports.

PARTY: G S Chappell (captain), K J Hughes, T M Alderman, A R Border, W M Darling, B M Laird, G F Lawson, D K Lillee, R W Marsh, J R Thomson, D MacD Wellham, G M Wood.

W Indies will bide their time

Sydney, Dec 1.—The West Indies are almost certain to be without the fast bowlers, Sylvester Clarke and Michael Holding, for the World Series Cup one-day match against Pakistan in Adelaide on Saturday. When the touring party arrived in Orange today for tomorrow's one-day match against a New South Wales Country XI, both players were nursing injuries suffered in the victory over New South Wales.

Clarke has a bruised heel and Holding a strained knee ligament. Clarke saw an orthopaedic surgeon during the New South Wales match and although he ruled out the possibility of more serious damage to the foot, Clarke has been advised to rest for at least a week. With the first Test match against Australia less than a month away, the selectors are anxious not to try out their fitness too soon.

Steve Comacho, the tour manager, said: "We will give them plenty of time to get fit. If they don't we will have to think of calling on Wayne Daniel. But that will need discussion here and the approval of our cricket board of control and I don't want to be premature."

Daniel, of Middlesex, who last played Test cricket in the 1976 series in England, is currently playing for Western Australia. The opener, Greenidge, is another member of the touring team injured. He missed the New South Wales match because of a twisted knee

Roberts, who has not been selected for tomorrow's game either, wants to play English cricket again next summer, but he needs a club. Roberts has already agreed in principle to a part-time contract with Leicestershire.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

This table is published on Wednesday and Saturday

Authorized Unit Trusts

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Charities Official Investment Fund. 77 London Wall, London, EC2	01-588 1815		
168 4	129 6	Income* (42)	150 4		7 98
475 1	288 0	Accum* (42)	379 5		
		Manulife Management. Manulife Hse., Stevenage Herts	0438 56101		
53 6	50 0	Gilt Fund	53 6	54 7	5 10
		McAnally Fund Management Ltd. Regis House King William St EC4	01-623 4951		
35 8	24.9	Delphi Inc Acc	35 8	31.6	8 97
37 7	26 4	Do Accum	24.3	27 0	8 97
108.5	82 7	Glen Fund Acc	106 4	113.2e	4 43
		Scotbits Securities Ltd.			
54 7	38 3	Scotbits	50.1	53 8	4.23
93 3	69 4	Scotshares	84 3	90.5e	4.51
59 3	47 6	Scotyields	51.4	55.2	7 72
		Schroder Unit Trust Managers Ltd. 48 St. Martins Lane, WC2N 4EF	0705 27733		
64.3	50 0	American	64 4	68.4e	6 48
		AMEV Life Assurance Ltd 2-4 Prince of Wales Rd, B'mouth.	0202 767655		
183 8	146 4	Managed Bond	185.2	195 2	
137 7	129 6	Money	137.7	144.9	
170.5	101 2	Equity	153 7	183.8	
88.1	77 5	Fixed Int	84.8	89.1	
138 7	122.3	Property	138.7	146.2	
117.1	100.8	Flexiplan	112.9	119 0	
126.1	113 1	Money Series A	126 1	132 7	
158.2	149.7	Do Units	156.2	166.6	
130.1	98.6	Equity Fund	124.8	130.5	
118.2	104.8	Fixed Int Fund	114 9	121 0	
101.6	100.0	European Fnd	100 9	109.2	
144.3	100 0	Far East Fnd	133.0	140 6	
111.6	97 1	Special Sits	103.3	109.2	
		Pearl Assurance (Unit Funds) Ltd 252 High Holborn, WC1V 7EB	01-405 8441		
176.6	122.9	Equity Fnd	151 5	159 5	
154.4	122 6	Managed Fnd	139 9	147.3	
172 9	153 6	Prop Acc Units	172 9	182.0	
136 1	130 1	Prop Dist Units	130 3	137 2	
136 3	100 0	Pen Amer Cap	108 5	114 3	
140 6	100 0	Do Accum	113 4	119 4	
194 2	100 0	Pen F East Cap	162 7	171 3	
200 4	100 0	Do Accum	169 6	178 6	
		Vanbrugh Life Assurance Ltd 41-43 Maddox St, London W1R 9LA	01-499 4923		
213 1	167 4	Managed Fund	205 4	216 3	
372 0	239 6	Do Equity	346 6	364 9	

Football

An ugly encounter of the close kind

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

West Ham 0 West Bromwich 1

Familiarity, they say, breeds contempt. West Ham United and West Bromwich Albion met for the fourth time in 74 days last night and the result was that, although West Bromwich won this third round League Cup tie at the third attempt and will now visit Crystal Palace next week, football itself was an ugly loser.

It is not often that that happens at Upton Park. Nor, for that matter, are West Ham often beaten at home. The last time it happened in the League was 17 months ago, on the opening day of last season when Luton Town were the victors of a second division fixture.

West Bromwich, as in the first replay last week, could not even hope to match their opponents for invention but they do have a ruggedly determined outfit and a disciplined system that negated West Ham's undoubted superiority. They have, after all, yet to be defeated in any of the four encounters so far this season.

Their ploy was simple: Jol took Brooking, they filled midfield—the area that West Ham use to store their artists—with a host of black-and-white-striped magpies chasing one precious object, and they [illegible] ebony muscle, to win it for them on his own. None of his colleagues ever bothered to trouble Parkes until the tie had been decided.

West Ham lost Cross with an injured knee after 20 minutes and it was immediately after his departure that the ebullient Regis came close to putting West Bromwich in front, as they had been in their previous two cup meetings.

With Bonds and Martin supremely confident in defence, West Ham's attack was limited by Statham's domination of their one winger, Neighbour. Their frustration grew and so did West Bromwich's aggression and the tempers that had been slowly rising exploded a minute before the interval.

Allen, Cross's replacement, retaliated to Brown's fierce challenge and both were booked and then subsequently sent off. Earlier the name of Batson and later that of Jol were also taken by the referee.

Brown's influence had been negligible and West Bromwich in the end benefited from his absence, although it was their young goalkeeper, Grew, that kept them in the contest as he had done twice previously. He made three remarkable flying saves, particularly from a volley by Neighbour, a powerful header from Martin and a close-range effort from Devonshire before the winner arrived 10 minutes from time.

Grew was also forced to watch anxiously—on one occasion he crossed himself—as the wispy Devonshire, allowed even more freedom than usual, pulled West Bromwich's massed defence first one way and then the other to set up chances.

Mackenzie, who had been struggling in Devonshire's wake all evening, was rewarded for his efforts by putting Regis away for the decisive goal. His pass floated over Martin's shoulder and Regis, fast becoming an England World Cup prospect, this time used all of his awesome power to beat Parkes and fulfil his lonesome task.

WEST HAM UNITED: P Parkes; R Stewart, F Lampard, R Bonds, A Martin, A Devonshire, J Neighbour, P Goddard, D Cross (sub: P Allen), T Brooking, G Pike.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION: M Grew; B Batson, D Statham, A King, J Wile, C Robertson, R Jol, A Brown, C Regis, D Owen, G Mackenzie.

Referee: B Martin (Keyworth).

Three heads with a single-minded thought: Regis, Martin and Bonds.

Last-minute goal silences Wigan

By Keith Macklin

Wigan 1 Aston Villa 2

In the town where football has so often to play second fiddle to Rugby League, a crowd of 15,362 roared the fourth division upstarts to an early goal and a splendid fighting finish. They reserved their jeers and catcalls for the Football League champions, who escaped with a streaky equalizer, a last-minute goal and drearily negative tactics.

The expected Nottingham Forest old boys reunion of Wigan's player-manager, Lloyd, and the Villa centre forward, Withe, did not materialise because Lloyd was injured. The experienced Bradd took his place.

After nine minutes the whole of the Springfield Park crowd, except those from the Midlands, leapt into the air as one man. Quinn glanced the ball through to Houghton, who was in oceans of space. A first division striker could not have bettered his measured shot, which curled over and beyond Rimmer. Pandemonium ensued for several minutes and it was Houghton again who held off three Villa defenders with a 40-yard run and cross.

Villa, as so often in these battles, played with none of the composure and the skill expected of champions. Even when Swain, Shaw and Cowans worked a nice move, Cowans's shot was nearer the corner flag than the goal. Morley, despite his elusiveness, put a shot 15 yards over the top and then another effort a similar distance wide as Villa were plainly rattled by Wigan's tough tackles and uncompromising offside trap.

Tunks had to make his first real save after 37 minutes when Morley at last found the target with a fierce, low drive. When Shaw robbed Bradd, Tunks made a splendid save from Withe. Half-time arrived to a frenzied roar from the crowd, who understandably sensed that the scalp of Villa might yet hang alongside that of Chelsea.

Ron Saunders must have had strong words with his side at half-time, since for 20min they showed a sense of purpose more in keeping with their status. Bremner put a careful shot well wide, Tunks held a Withe header, and Swain's teasing cross just eluded Shaw.

The equalizer came in the most unsatisfactory way. Cowans served Shaw with a lovely through pass and as Tunks dived at his feet, Shaw pushed the ball past him and dived spectacularly. There may have been contact with Tunks, but Shaw made a meal of it and the thunderous boos continued long after Cowans had dispatched the penalty kick.

The last quarter of an hour belonged to Wigan, as the champions resorted to time wasting and passes to the goalkeeper. It was a rank injustice, heart-breaking for Wigan, when Methven's slip presented the ball to Evans and Withe put the ball past the gallant Tunks at the second attempt.

WIGAN: R Tunks; J McMahon, A Cribley, M Wignall (sub: J Wright), L Bradd, J Methven, P Sheldon, G Barrow, M Quinn, L Houghton, [illegible].

ASTON VILLA: J Rimmer; K Swain, C Gibson, A Evans, [illegible], D Mortimer, G Shaw, [illegible], P Withe, G Cowans, A Morley.

Referee: D Hutchinson (Harrogate).

Rugby Union

Lucas leads tourists to a scruffy victory

By David Hands

Pontypridd 3 Australians 6

An occasion for which Pontypridd have waited 105 years deserved a better game than this. In perfect conditions at Sardis Road yesterday, Pontypridd, in their first game against a leading touring side, lost by two penalty goals to one, which is a narrow enough difference in all conscience, but one which they seldom looked likely to bridge.

It was a scruffy game, typical perhaps of a touring side whose mind is on higher things; in this instance Saturday's game against Wales. In those circumstances, any tour management is happy to see the side come through without injuries and with another scalp under the belt, though it is only the second game in which this Australian side has failed to score a try (the first was against the Northern Division in the third game).

On the credit side, the form of the flanker, Lucas, and the hard work of the two locks will have pleased Sir Nicholas Shehadie, the Australian manager. Roche had another game bristling with vim but it was Lucas who was the more constructive player. It was not his fault that his colleagues failed to make headway against a club side in which two more flankers, Shellard and Jones, stood out.

Shellard, swift to seize on anything loose, disrupted the Australian lineout and maintained constant pressure on the tourists' midfield. Despite his attentions, however, Mark Ella gave a much more decisive performance than some he has offered on tour, an advertisement perhaps for the benefits of family life: his parents flew into Britain with an Australian supporters' party yesterday morning.

In addition, Mark Ella kicked the two penalties which won the game, both of them gifts by anyone's standards. He had already missed with a none too difficult sighter, but made no mistake from 12 and 15 metres respectively.

The first came after offside by Pontypridd after Loane had driven on from a ruck; the second when the home backs stood offside at a maul. Together they overhauled the penalty kicked by Hodgkinson after Cox, a shade harshly, was penalized for a late tackle on Flynn.

Pontypridd, in their original selection, had given notice that they intended to offer an attacking game but they were seldom in a position to do so. Most of the game they spent inside their own half and they consistently failed in their line kicking from such penalties that came their way.

It is this matter of penalties which has plagued the Australians throughout the tour: they give away far too many on technicalities, and the Welsh captain, Gareth Davies, will punish them if it happens again in Cardiff on Saturday.

Committed as they became from the opening nervous seconds to a wholehearted end, it should be added, exceptionally successful defence—whatever their original intentions—Pontypridd rarely [illegible] save at the start of the second half.

Jones reinforced his backs, there was a charge round the blind-side by Newland which captivated the crowd. With the Australians showing an unwanted propensity for losing the ball in the tackle, there were local hopes of at least getting on terms.

The try line, however, remained as remote a sight as it has for all Welsh sides who have played the Australians and it was only good covering by Cartwright that prevented Cox from scoring midway through the second half, after Lucas had moved the ball swiftly from a ruck.

Australia's best chance of a try had come in the opening minutes when Slack cut through with support outside him but was brought down just short of the line and penalized for trying to squirm over. Both sides had to make do with some desperately poor ball, yet it was always the Australians who kept the driving-seat, even if the ride was distinctly bumpy.

PONTYPRIDD: I Walsh; A Rose, J Pritchard, S Flynn, A Cartwright; M Hodgkinson, R Morgan (capt); J Newland, M Alexander, R Lott, M Shellard, J Luff, R Cooksley, G Jones, C Smith.

AUSTRALIANS: Glen Ella; P Grigg, M Cox, A Slack, M Martin; M Ella, A Parker; J Meadows, L Walker, D Curran, P Lucas, D Hall, S Williams, C Roche, M Loane (capt).

Referee: J Trigg (London).

Wales lose Burgess

Clive Burgess, the 30-year-old Ebbw Vale flanker, is out of the Welsh team for the international against Australia on Saturday. He is replaced by Gareth Williams, of Bridgend. Burgess missed Monday night's training because of influenza and withdrew yesterday.

Liverpool make light of Kennedy dismissal

By Nicholas Harling

Arsenal 0 Liverpool 0

Arsenal and Liverpool have had some stirring cup battles but this was not one of them. Their League Cup fourth-round tie at Highbury last night left no enduring memories, just a nasty one, which was the sending-off of Ray Kennedy, the Liverpool midfield player, after an incident in the fortieth minute involving Peter Nicholas.

Kennedy's dismissal, his second of the season, left Liverpool with only 10 men for the last 50 minutes but with so much experience behind them of rearguard actions on the continent, the European champions were able to force next Tuesday's replay at Anfield without too many alarms.

Playing against his old club Kennedy was quietly making his presence felt when he appeared to jab an elbow into the face of Nicholas, who collapsed. In his defence before being shown the red card, Kennedy pointed to his left knee, which was presumably where the previous tackle by Nicholas had left its mark.

There was little else of passion in the match which seemed to be heading towards its predictable way after only five minutes. By then the ball had already been replaced, the original one proving too soft. With the new one neither side displayed any inclination to be more adventurous. Space was at a premium in midfield, which was filled at the slightest threat by retreating forwards, acting as reinforcement. If one player of either side got free, an opponent invariably appeared to negate the danger.

The first corner took 18 minutes coming, and from McDermott's kick, Dalglish produced the first goalbound effort, a header which Jennings tipped over.

Arsenal's reply was promising, Sunderland putting the ball into the net, only to be given offside and then having Grobbelaar plunge at his feet after their most inspired move. Rix then came nearer to hitting the clock than the goal from a free kick as things reverted to normal.

After Kennedy had blotted his copybook for his retaliation, which was incidentally a repat of his earlier offence against Aston Villa in September, the height of Liverpool's ambitions seemed to be to bring Arsenal back to Anfield. Despite their numerical disadvantage they succeeded in making midfield look as congested as it had been before. Whelan having dropped back to leave Rush on a lone, unavailing forward patrol.

Nicholas, clearly not Liverpool's favourite person in the second half, almost did his popularity more harm by supplying the cross from which Rix almost beat Grobbelaar, who had come too far from his goal, not for the first time. Under pressure at the other end Nicholas then headed feebly out to Souness, whose shot was off target.

In an attempt to break the deadlock Arsenal then introduced Hankin but in taking off McDermott, they left themselves without a player capable of floating over the high centres required by the big striker. There was to be no dividend for Arsenal's second largest crowd of the season.

ARSENAL: P Jennings; J Hollins, K Sansom, B Talbot, D O'Leary, C Whyte, B McDermott (sub, R Hankin), A Sunderland, P Davis, P Nicholas, G Rix.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar, P Neal, M Lawrenson, P Thompson, R Kennedy, A Hansen, K Dalglish, R Whelan, I Rush, T McDermott, G Souness.

Referee: A Seville (Birmingham).

Do's and don'ts for hooligans

By Norman Fox

Exploratory talks intended to stop hooliganism by British supporters at the World Cup in Spain next year ended last night with the Minister for Sport, Neil Macfarlane, offering the "minority" of troublemakers a pamphlet on "Do's and don'ts" before they travel.

Despite the record of England and Scotland supporters, the minister insisted that "99.9 per cent of the British fans going abroad will be well behaved". He cautioned the others that the methods of control by Continental authorities were "in stark contrast to our own".

Doubts about the ability of one British travel company with official access to tickets, Sportsworld, to cope with the hooligan element have not yet been overcome. Mr Macfarlane said he would be looking closely at the distribution of tickets and the plans of tour operators.

The confiscating of passports, which was suggested last week by the chairman of the Football Association, Bert Millichip, was again dismissed. Mr Macfarlane said: "It is not part of our way of life. If people have passports, they are free to travel."

He agreed to increase the consular staff at the venues in Spain where British teams had matches and said liaison officers would be established similar to those used by British clubs in European competition. These "officers" usually liaise between the club and the local authorities who are given estimates of the numbers of supporters expected to travel and their movements.

Mr Macfarlane said: "I think these measures will have an effect, but a great deal depends on how the minority regard the efforts likely to be made by the authorities in Spain and also in France if they travel overland."

He said that Government officials would visit Spain early in the New Year when the World Cup draw was made. Ted Croker, the secretary of the Football Association, said: "The Minister's palns are in line with what we wanted. It looks as if we are going to get what we hoped for!"

The problems of cheap alcohol and the segregating of crowds were also discussed. Mr Macfarlane said he hoped FIFA, the international governing body of football, would look closely at the segregating of those who arrived without tickets. Large numbers of British spectators are expected to go to Spain and buy tickets at the gates.

The latest bad news for Bond and City

By Norman Fox

Trevor Francis's long struggle with a succession of injuries continues today when he enters hospital for a manipulative operation on thigh damage. The Manchester City and England forward has made only seven appearances since leaving Nottingham Forest for £1m 13 weeks ago.

The operation costs him another appearance, against Barnsley in a League Cup fourth-round tie tonight, and probably another against the champions, Aston Villa at Maine Road on Saturday. John Bond, City's manager, said: "You have to live with injuries, but they seem to go on and on. It destroys all you are trying to do."

Francis suffered a knee injury in his fourth match for City and missed eight games. He reappeared three games ago but hurt his thigh in training. The injury is not considered to be serious but City badly need to see him fully fit. In the eight matches without him they scored only four goals. They scored 18 when he appeared in seven games.

Tonight Francis is replaced by Boyer who has himself known the frustration of several injuries. Tueart has a heel injury and Caton is also in doubt because of calf muscle damage so Mr Bond leaves his team selection until today. Barnsley, who have played impressive football this season, hope that one of their forwards, Parker, passes a fitness test on an injured ankle.

D'Avray, a South African forward who scored against City on Saturday, is retained in the Ipswich Town team for their third round replay at Bradford City.

Armstrong provides vital element in Watford punch

By John Clemison

Watford 4 QP Rangers 1

Watford escaped from the possibility of a League Cup replay on artificial turf by scoring four goals at Vicarage Road last night, and progress to the quarter finals of the competition for the third time in the last four years.

Watford's organization at the back, brought about principally through the vigilance of Rice and Pritchett effectively took the sting out of Rangers' attack and provided the base for Jackett and Blissett to tease the visiting defence.

Taylor had plenty of time to control the pace of Watford's game and Bolton and Terry timed their passes to perfection to give the strikers that extra yard of room.

If Watford had a fault, it was in their finishing. They spent an agonising first half hour pumping the ball into the Rangers penalty area to little or no effect and even after Taylor broke the stalemate with a 30-yard shot, there was little doubt that the home side needed more punch up front.

That vital ingredient was provided by the substitution of Armstrong for Barnes at half-time. Though Barnes had provided width to the Watford attack, he was limping at the start of the game and was further crippled by a tackle from behind by Fenwick, for which the Rangers man was booked.

The virtue of having a striker who can snap up half chances came ten minutes after the break. Blissett's shot from the edge of the area cannoned off the crossbar in front of the goal. Armstrong was perfectly placed on the six-yard line to ram the ball into the net.

Blissett accepted Jackett's well-timed pass on the halfway line, outpaced the defence over 40 yards and sidefooted the ball past Burridge for the third.

Rangers looked weak in defence. Howe lacked authority and on several occasions he felt the pressure of Jenkins and Armstrong and had to resort to nodding the ball out of play rather than attempting to distribute it.

Nevertheless, Rangers did produce a handful of well-conceived movements, notably when Stainrod and Sealy were linking.

Rangers pulled one goal back ten minutes from time when Terry handled in the area and Stainrod beat Sherwood with his penalty kick.

Two minutes from the end, however, Watford made it 4—1, when Callaghan's run set Taylor up for his second goal.

WATFORD: S Sherwood, P Rice, K Pritchett, L Taylor, S Terry, I Bolton, N Callaghan, L Blissett, R Jenkins, K Jackett, J Barnes (sub: G Armstrong).

QPR: J Burridge, J Gregory, T Fenwick, G Waddock, E Howe, G Roeder, R Hazel (sub: G Micklewhite), M Flanagan, A Sealy, S Stainrod, I Gillard.

Referee: M Baker (Wolverhampton).

Best in Middlesbrough

Whether George Best can revive his career in the Football League and even play in the World Cup finals in Spain next year may be discovered at Middlesbrough. The former Manchester United player, who is now 35, is said to be happy with Middlesbrough's terms.

Mr Bingham said: "The door is not closed to any player at this stage. Every player who is eligible will be considered on fitness and form when I name my provisional 40 for the World Cup finals next April".

Dundee United's slack finishing

From a Special Correspondent
Genk, Dec 1

Winterslag 0 Dundee United 0

Dundee United played themselves into a winning position in the Uefa Cup third round first leg tie in Belgium tonight. The highly proficient Scots completed an eventful evening with the result they wanted to take back for next midweek's return on Tayside.

Before the kick off United had lodged a protest to the Uefa ruling body after the Swiss referee's decision to allow the tie to go ahead on a highly questionable waterlogged surface.

Throughout the 90 minutes United contrived many more chances than the home side. Unfortunately their finishing did not match their approach work.

WINTERSLAG: De Bruyne; Houben, Billen, Van Lessen, Lambrichif, Albertsen, Thys, P Tenler, Berner, Weiss, Van Woerkum.

DUNDEE UNITED: McAlpine; Holt, Stark, Phillip, Hegarty, Neary, Bannon, Milne, Gough, Sturrock, Dodds.

Referee: B Galler (Switzerland).

Local rivals meet

Hendon have been drawn at home to their local rivals, Barnet, in the third qualifying round of the FA Trophy to be played on December 19. The draw includes:

Kings Lynn or Boston v Harlow or Wellingborough, Enderby v St Albans, Barking v Chesham or Spalding, Alvechurch v Billericay, Hitchin v Leytonstone and Ilford, Sutton Coldfield v Bedworth or Wealdstone, Hendon v Barnet, Tooting and Mitcham v Dover, Leatherhead v Addlestone and Weybridge, Staines v Wokingham, Carshalton v Dorchester, Croydon v Gosport, Epsom and Ewell v Gravesend and Northfleet, Maidstone v Bognor Regis, Bridgend v Gloucester, Minehead v Trowbridge, Frome v Saltash or Tavistock, Bath v Bridgwater, Bideford v Merthyr Tydfil.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Malvern 1, Repton 1.

SUSSEX SENIOR CUP: First round replay: Bu[illegible]

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: QPR 4, [illegible]; [illegible]don 1, To[illegible]

Last night's results

Uefa Cup
Third round, first leg

Winterslag (0) 0 Dundee U (0) 0
10,000

League Cup
Fourth round

Arsenal (0) 0 Liverpool (0) 0
37,917

Watford (1) 4 QPR (0) 1
Taylor (2), Armstrong, Blissett — Stainrod (pen)
18,275

Wigan (1) 1 A Villa (0) 2
Houghton — Cowans (pen), Withe
15,362

Third round second leg

West Ham (0) 0 West Brom (0) 1
24,502 — Regis

Winners away to Crystal Palace

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland: Corby 1, Barry 2. Southern: Ashford 2, Folkestone 1; Canterbury 0, Addlestone and Weybridge 1; Hounslow 0, Dorchester 0.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Coventry 2, Preston 1; Leeds 2, Huddersfield 0.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers 2, Reading 5; Orient 1, Birmingham 3.

FA TROPHY: Second qualifying round: Chesham 1, Spalding 1; St Albans 2, Chelmsford 1. Replays: Gosport 2, Basingstoke 1.

WELSH CUP: Stafford 0, Swansea 4.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barking 2, Bromley 3; Carshalton 4, Dulwich Hamlet 2; Staines 3, Leatherhead 0; Sutton 0, Hayes 1. First division: Clapton 0, Aveley 1; Epsom 0, Met Police 1; Farnborough 0, Hampton 0; Walton and Hersham 2, Lewes 1; Wembley 1, Oxford City 1; Wokingham 2, Feltham 1. Second division: Epping 1, Rainham 0; Harwich and Parkstone 0, Chesbunt 0; Southall 1, Corinthian Casuals 1.

Rugby Union
[illegible]

Rugby League
SECOND DIVISION: [illegible]

Happy birthday, Ripley

By Gordon Allan

Rosslyn Park 33 Nottingham 6

Rosslyn Park were too quick, slick and experienced for Nottingham at Roehampton last evening. They won by three goals, three tries and a dropped goal to two penalty goals. It was Park's tenth win in succession. Ripley scored two tries on his birthday and Graves, the former Bedford player who joined Park this season, scored a try and kicked three conversions.

Graves scored soon after the start. Nottingham were forced to kick the ball over their own line and from the five-metre scrummage Dewey and Stothard first set up a ruck for Park and then switched play to the short side. The next score was a dropped goal by Thornton from an indirect penalty in front of the posts. Murphy mislaid the ball at a Nottingham heel, Edmonds picked up and Thornton ran in for Park's second try, which Graves converted.

Hodgkinson kicked a penalty for Nottingham but it was only a polite interruption. Ripley appeared on the wing at the end of a three-quarter movement and charged through several tackles for a characteristic try in the corner, converted by Graves, to give Park a 19—3 lead at the interval. It accurately reflected the way the game had gone.

Park were at it again in the second half. Nottingham's passing broke down in midfield, not for the first time, and Gill dribbled through for a try. Hodgkinson kicked another penalty for Nottingham—another polite interruption because Park were more and more having things their own way.

Stothard, borne in on a wave of his own forwards, scored their fifth try when they heeled against the head adjacent to the Nottingham corner flag. There was a dust-up between the two packs in the process, the only such incident of the match.

Nottingham, ever willing, mounted one or two attacks towards the end but Ripley, fittingly, had the last word with a breakaway try, again on the wing. Graves converted.

ROSSLYN PARK: J Graves; J Gill, N Anderson (captain), S Fluskey, S Tiddy; J Thornton, P Dewey; M Renny, I Smith, N Stothard, G Edmonds, N Chaumeton, P Ackford, R Montgomery, A Ripley.

NOTTINGHAM: M Drane; D Holdstock, M Northard (captain), T Bennett, C Pitts; S Hodgkinson, K Murphy; R Lucas, B Moore, J Rankin, I Adamson, P Nixon, M Grindle, G Rees, P Cook.

Referee: P Wakefield (London).

Glasgow have made seven personnel changes and one positional in their team to meet Edinburgh in the inter-city at Hughenden next Saturday. Three internationals, Jimmy and Bryan Gossman and Cuthbertson return.

Today's fixtures

Kickoff 7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: Barnsley v Manchester City; Nottingham Forest v Tranmere Rovers; Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham (7.45). Third round replay: Bradford City v Ipswich Town.

FA CUP: First round, second replay: Port Vale v Lincoln City.

THIRD DIVISION: Chester v Doncaster Rovers.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: West Bromwich Albion v Bolton Wanderers (7.0).

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Crystal Palace v West Ham United (2.15).

FA TROPHY: Second qualifying round, replays: Boston v King's Lynn (2.0); Taunton v Saltash; Wellingborough v Harlow; Wealdstone v Bedworth.

LONDON SENIOR CUP: third qualifying round: Haringey Borough v Barkingside.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Second division: Barton Rovers v Hemel Hempstead.

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Blackpool v Burnley (7.0); Doncaster v Newcastle; Manchester City v Everton (1.30); Loughton v Redhill; Watford v Oxford United; Crystal Palace v Chelsea; Cardiff v Plymouth.

[illegible]

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: Challenge round: Aberystwyth v Reading; Durham v Brunel; Exeter v Birmingham; Loughborough v Liverpool; Manchester v Newcastle; Sheffield v Lancaster; Surrey v Bristol; Swansea v Nottingham.

COUNTY MATCHES: Kent County Clubs v Surrey County Clubs (Sidcup RFC, 2.30).

OTHER MATCHES: Wiltshire Police v Thames Valley Police (2.30); Oxford University Greyhounds v Cambridge LX Club (Iffley Road, 2.30).

Rugby Union

CLUB MATCHES: Bath v Cheltenham (7.15); Ebbw Vale v Moseley (7.0); Percy Park v Northern; Orrell v Otley (7.15).

Hockey

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: United Banks HA v Insurance HA (at Surbiton HC, 2.15).

LONDON LEAGUE: Guildford v Cambridge University; London University v Oxford University.

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: Challenge round: Bangor v Reading; Birmingham v Essex; Exeter v UMIST; Kent v Loughborough; Lancaster v Durham; Leeds v Warwick; Newcastel v Sheffield; UWIST v Bristol.

WOMEN'S UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: Challenge round: Aberystwyth v Sussex; Bangor v Newcastle; Bradford v Reading; Durham v UMIST; Liverpool v Bristol; Loughborough v Leeds; Southampton v Keele; UCL v Birmingham.

Yachting

Flyer breaks more than the record

From Barry Pickthall
Auckland, Dec 2

With thousands lining clifftops, harbour walls and other vantage points and many more in spectator craft, greeting the leaders in the Round the World race, Auckland gained an unofficial public holiday yesterday.

Flyer was the first to receive this rousing welcome shortly after dawn, when the 76-foot Dutch sloop, skippered by Cornelis van Rietschoten, crossed the line to set a new record for the 7,100-mile voyage from Cape Town of 30 days 4 hours 27 minutes.

Eight hours later it was Ceramco New Zealand's turn to run the gauntlet through hundreds more spectator craft in Waitemata harbour to lead on handicap. Both yachts suffered considerable damage during the race through the Southern Ocean, with blown-out sails and breaking sheets

"We seem to break something every six hours", a tired but happy van Rietschoten told me when he stepped ashore. "Our boom snapped in two places one week out from Cape Town when Flyer rolled in a vicious broach. It took us 12 hours to repair it and, during that time when we were still surfing down those huge seas at 20 knots or more under poled-out Genoas, we also damaged the mast.

"It all happened very quickly. As the boat rolled into a wave the pole dipped into the water and the mast attachment broke under the pressure, catapulting the spar into the mast."

For the record

Tennis

BARCELONA: America lead Europe 3—1 (US names first): V Gerulaitis lost to I Lendl, 4—6, 5—7, 10—8; G Mayer beat A Panatta, 6—3, 6—3; J McEnroe beat Y Noah, 6—2, 6—7, 6—2; G Vilas beat M Orantes, 6—3, 6—7.

WOMEN'S TOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS: Leading placings (eight to qualify): 1, C Lloyd (US) 1,570 pts; 2, M Navratilova (US) 1,500; 3, T Austin (US) 1,205; 4, A Jaeger (US) 1,120. These four have already qualified. 5, H Mandlikova (Czechoslovakia) 1,020; 6, M Jausovec (Yugoslavia) and V Ruzici (Romania) both 1,000; 8, S Hanika (WG) 995; 9, P Shriver (US) 990; 10, R Marsikova (Czechoslovakia) 745.

LEADING WOMEN'S EARNINGS: 1, M Navratilova (US) $835,937; 2, C Lloyd (US) $455,662; 3, A Jaeger (US) $330,215; 4, T Austin (US) $319,309; 5, H Mandlikova (Czechoslovakia) $296,002; 6, P Shriver (US) $264,630; 7, W Turnbull (Australia) $174,585; 8, S Hanika (WG) $167,398; 9, S Potter (US) $150,867; 10, V Ruzici (Romania) $141,140.

Table tennis

STOCKHOLM: Men: China 5, Sweden 1 (Chen Xinhua beat M Appelgren (Sweden), 20—22, 21—10, 21—18; Jiang Jialiang beat U Carlsson, 21—19, 21—15; Teng Yi beat U Bengtsson, 21—14, 21—11; Chen Xinhua beat Carlsson, 21—13, 21—18; M Appelgren beat Teng Yi, 21—19, 11—21, 21—11; Jiang Jialiang beat Bengtsson, 21—15, 19—21, 22—20). Women: China 5, Sweden 0 (Dai Lilich beat M Lindblad, 22—20, 21—19; Xie Xiaoyan beat A C Hellman, 21—19, 21—16; Chen Jieling beat A Hernwall, 21—17, 21—12; Dai Lilich beat Hellman, 21—16, 21—5; Chen Jieling beat Lindblad, 10—21, 21—12, 22—20.)

Cycling

ZURICH: Six-day event (after first day): 1, D Allan and G Wiggins (Australia), 6pts; 2, G Frank and K Svendsen (Denmark), 5; 3, P Sercu (Belgium) and R Pijnen (Netherlands), 5.

Clay pigeon shooting

ALMERIA: International grand prix: [illegible]

Snooker

Davis is favourite to stay the distance

By Sydney Friskin

Steve Davis, the world title holder, faces a strong challenge today from Jimmy White in the semi-final round of the United Kingdom championship, sponsored by Coral, at the Guild Hall, Preston. Davis won this title last year to begin a sequence of five triumphs which, by the end of September this year, brought his winners' earnings to £65,000.

Few matches in the Preston event can have aroused as much interest as today's meeting between these two young Londoners; Davis is aged 23 and White 19. Barely a month ago White beat Davis in the final of the Northern Ireland classic in Belfast. He had earlier beaten Davis on the way to winning the Scottish Masters title in Glasgow.

For Davis, however, the best is probably yet to be although he had two successive century breaks in his second round match against Willie Thorne. His 9—5 win over Bill Werbeniuk was not particularly inspiring. But in comparison to White his play remains more consistent and more refined.

White, by virtue of his achievements, looks more matchworthy. In the first round he defeated John Virgo, the winner of the UK title in 1979. In the second round he eliminated the Irish champion, Dennis Taylor, and in the quarter-final round, beat the six times world champion, Ray Reardon, in a thrilling finish 9—8.

For the second time in about a month Reardon had a costly miss on the last red of a deciding frame. At Reading in the final of the world team championship he could have cleared the table but he missed the last red and left it on for Davis, who went on to win the match and the title for England.

White's new coiffure has altered his general appearance. His style of play, too, has changed as he has curbed his impetuosity and given more thought to tactics and safety ploys. He has flair but will need to match Davis for concentration in today's 17-frame match. The distance must favour Davis.

In the lower half of the draw Terry Griffiths, world champion in 1979 who has yet to win the United Kingdom title, reached the semi-final round on Monday night with a 9—5 win over Tony Knowles, of Bolton, another rising young player. Griffiths found his best form in the twelfth frame to compile a brilliant break of 131 which ended when the black hovered over one of the corner pockets.

The highest break for the championship is 139 by Graham Miles but Griffiths is in line for the prize of £1,000 offered for the highest break in the current tournament, having beaten the previous best jointly achieved by Davis, Kirk Stevens and Alex Higgins. Griffiths' victory has brought his odds down to 9-2 as second favourite behind 2-1 on Davis, Jimmy White 6-1, Higgins 7-1.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND: [illegible]

World title holder, Steve Davis in winning frame of mind.

Real tennis

A bridge too far for Cull and Johnson

By Roy McKelvie

The two leading pairs were in action in the Open doubles championship, sponsored by Unigate, at Queen's Club yesterday. The Australians, Wayne Davies and Lachlan Deuchar, out-hit the amateurs Jeremy Reiss and Jonathan Walsh by 6—1, 6—1, 6—5 and Christopher Ronaldson and Michael Dean were too strong for David Cull and David Johnson, winning 6—1, 6—2, 4—6, 6—3.

These two winning pairs reached the semi-final, where tomorrow Davies and Deuchar will meet Kevin Sheldon and Peter Dawes. Ronaldson and Dean will play Peter Seabrook and John Ward, the only amateur team remaining.

Ronaldson and Dean were more aggressive and possessed a heavier armoury than Cull and Johnson who, tidy players though they are, had few punishing strokes. The winning strokes, heavily-punched volleys, forces for the winning openings off the tambour, and under the grille, came mostly from Ronaldson and Dean although the former did sometimes appear casual. Johnson, when given the chance, found the dedans and was particularly positive in the third set. It needed the utmost concentration from the winners to take the fourth set.

SECOND ROUND: W Davies (Bordeaux) and L Deuchar (Hobart) beat [illegible]

Ice skating

Miss Wood's repertoire is more extensive than her opponent's

By John Hennessy

Three events are included in the British figure skating championships, sponsored by Multi Broadcast, at Richmond today and tomorrow, but one, the women's championship, occupies nearly all the attention.

It presents two fascinating competitions in one, a tussle for the title between Karen Wood (Deeside) and Debbie Cottrill, once of Solihull but now trained in Lake Placid, New York, and a scramble for the bronze medal with the glittering prospect of a place in the British world championship team in Copenhagen in March.

Miss Cottrill won the British title three years ago at 16, but was surprisingly dislodged in 1980 by Karena Richardson, now a professional, and, just as surprisingly, was beaten last year by Miss Wood. On both occasions international competition was later to show that domestic results were no reliable guide, particularly under the new scoring system.

Miss Cottrill, whose career has been plagued with injury, was out of action for the whole of last summer because of foot ailments, one of which required surgery. Her free skating may therefore be suspect, particularly as her right foot is not fully healed. She should win the figure section, worth 30 per cent of the marks, and possibly the short programme (20 per cent), but she will be vulnerable to counter-attack by the champion in the free, worth 50 per cent but the deciding factor in the event of a tie.

Miss Wood, also 19, seemed the more confident of the two in practice yesterday, and her repertoire is the more extensive, with five triple jumps, the toe loop (twice), loop, salchow and lutz. The triple lutz, a highly advanced exercise, so far eludes Miss Cottrill, now trained by Emmerich Danzer, former world champion for Austria.

International competition last year offered the further curiosity, in addition to the reversal of British form, of Miss Cottrill's sixth place in Europe and fourth in the world. This allows us three places in Copenhagen, but only two in the European in Lyons.

Christopher Howarth, who has followed his trainer, David Clements, from Richmond to San Diego, and Susan Garland, who has made the reverse transatlantic crossing, from Wilmington, Delaware, to Solihull, should retain the men's and pairs trophies. Miss Garland, however, left her partner behind and is now paired with Ian Jenkins, last year's runner-up with Dawn Packer. What matters is not so much the fact as the manner of their winning.

After the compulsory figures and short programme today (7 am and 3 pm), the free skating will be held tomorrow night (7.30 pm), augmented by exhibitions

Miss Cottrill: her free skating may be suspect.

Racing

A victorious O'Neill has all the answers

By Michael Seely

John O'Neill rode back in triumph to the unsaddling enclosure after winning the Vaux Breweries Novices Steeplechase qualifier on Realt Na Nona at Wetherby yesterday. The smile of happiness on the 29-year-old Irishman's face was matched by the delighted shouts of supporters which greeted O'Neill after his 12-month absence from the track. The crowd of 3,000 was 50 per cent up on last year.

He came up to the press room afterwards to answer a myriad questions. "How did it feel?" we asked. "Brilliant", he replied. "There are no words to describe the thrill."

The sheer joy of living and of having been in action once again shone from the former champion's eyes. O'Neill exudes that inner feeling of contentment that only springs from a man at peace with himself and with a happy family behind him. Both the jockey's wife, Sheila, and his two and a half-year-old daughter were there to welcome him back.

Not that O'Neill lacks devilment, as those who have watched this human tornado hurling his horses at the fences can testify. "Take it easy? Not on your life", he said. "I'm a free lance and will ride for anyone who asks me." It is obviously too late in the season for him to become a contender for his third championship. But John Francome and Peter Scudamore had better look to their laurels next season.

O'Neill confessed to having felt a little puffed after finishing unplaced on Billy Kip, his first of four mounts during the day. "After that I was fine. Not a twinge of pain from my leg. And I was able to kick as hard as I liked." He wears a protective pad between his shin-guard and his leg, but O'Neill has finished with his specialist until he goes for a check-up in three months' time.

Realt Na Nona had sprinted away from Donjill after jumping the last fence to win by two lengths. But the mare had become a little outpaced approaching the final bend. "You have to sit and suffer on her, as she likes to do things her own way," O'Neill said.

Peter Easterby, the trainer, was his usual non-committal self. Privately the champion trainer raves about O'Neill, but his guard was up since he was later interviewed for the local television. "Yes, I suppose I did miss him. Why? Because he's a good jockey. In fact he's the best there is", he admitted in a rare moment of candour.

This afternoon O'Neill has four mounts booked at Ayr, where his best chance of winning is probably on the consistent Hot Pretence in the second division of the Lagg Novices Hurdle. The best bet at the Scottish course should be Cash In Hand.

Lucky Wayward Lad? Two burning questions at Huntingdon yesterday were — would Wayward Lad have won the Peterborough Steeplechase had Fairy King not fallen at the last fence and is something wrong with the two new fences in the home straight? The Press Association reports the fences, built this season, are causing concern after being responsible for numerous horse and jockey casualties yesterday and at previous Huntingdon meetings.

Before Fairy King fell, when just ahead of Wayward Lad, there were eight casualties at the two fences in the Tetworth Novices Steeplechase, including Bassnimoor, who broke his back and was destroyed. The clerk of the course, Hugo Bevan, said: "No jockeys have complained to me, but I am going to look into the situation very closely. A lot of horses seem to crumple on landing".

Man's best friend: O'Neill and Realt Na Nona can enjoy a horse laugh.

'Faceless' man of the sales is unmasked

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Hardly a year goes by without a new buyer of interest emerging during Tattersall's December sales at Newmarket. This year is no exception, even though the auctioneer saw fit to remark "whoever they happen to be" after he had knocked down a mare to an unfamiliar face representing International Thoroughbred Breeders Incorporated.

In the future, auctioneers are unlikely to be quite so cheeky, because the man who made that successful bid was Kerry Fitzpatrick, who may be an increasingly familiar figure in the big sale houses of the world. Mr Fitzpatrick is the president and chief executive of ITB, thought to be the first public company set up to deal in bloodstock, primarily in the buying of mares and shares in stallions.

The company, based midway between New York and Philadelphia, receives a daily quotation in the *Wall Street Journal*, and has been in existence for only 13 months, but already it has assets valued at $18m and nearly 10,000 shareholders flocked to buy shares when they were put on the market at a dollar a time on April 1. Before this week began those assets already included 50 mares and the same number of shares in top-class stallions. Mr Fitzpatrick has wasted little time in adding to them by shelling out nearly £500,000 on Monday and yesterday buying seven lots.

An American with no Irish blood in his veins, despite his name, Mr Fitzpatrick, aged 41, is the driving force behind ITB, but he concedes that the whole operation would never have got off the ground without the financial and moral backing of Robert Brennan, who is widely regarded in the United States as one of the most dynamic financiers on Wall Street. Mr Fitzpatrick himself is not exactly short on monetary know-how, having grown up in the banking world, but his heart has always been with horses.

He copied the idea of managing syndicates from a fellow American, Cothran Campbell, six years ago before he finally decided to take the plunge and set up his present company 13 months ago. Yesterday he explained that the tax laws in the United States put companies and individuals at a considerable advantage over their counterparts in this country. Because of those advantages his company has leased two thirds of the mares it owns to investors, raking in 20 per cent of the mares overall value and netting almost $4m in a relatively short time.

ITB were the biggest individual buyers at the recent breeding stocks sale in Lexington Kentucky conducted by Fasig-Tipton. Their purchases there included the 1978 1000 Guineas winner, Enstone Spark, who was in foal to our Derby winner Roberto. Only last week Fitzpatrick paid 300,000 Irish guineas at Goffs for Hardiemma, whose son Shirley Heights won the Derby and the Irish Derby in the same year that Enstone Spark scored her great triumph. Hardiemma was in foal to Great Nephew, the sire of, amongst others, Grundy and Shergar.

The day's top price of 220,000 guineas was for Moravie, by Northern Dancer and a three-part sister to Dancing Maid, another high class filly. Moravie was bought for the Cardiff stud in California by Richard Galpin, chairman of the Newmarket Bloodstock Agency.

It is 1902 and Madge Syers is the turn of the century

Women's Lib gets its skates on

By Dennis Bird

As figure skaters from all over Britain converge on Richmond Ice Rink for the national championships today and tomorrow it is worth noting that this winter marks the centenary of the birth of the first winner of the singles title. She was a determined, vivacious and popular girl who, under her married name of Madge Syers, was also the first Olympic champion in women's skating.

To mark the occasion she has just been posthumously elected to the United States Figure Skating Association's Hall of Fame in their museum at Colorado Springs and a commemorative plaque is to be presented to her niece, Mrs Kathleen Lankester, during this week's British championships.

Mrs Syers was born Florence Madeleine Cave, one of 15 children of Edward Jarvis Cave. She took up ice skating when she was 15 in the mid-1890s and with her sister, Beatrice, competed in waltzing competitions. Beatrice, who lived until 1971 when she was 92, was Mrs Lankester's mother.

Madge Cave became expert in the English style of skating, which included evolutions in formation by mixed teams of four; in 1899 she was one of C. Ernest Bell's team which won the Challenge Shield, the premier award of the National Skating Association. About this time she met the man who was to change her skating style and her life.

He was Edgar M. W. Syers (1863-1946)). 18 years her senior. He was an all-round winter sportsman who in 1903 was founder and first president of the Ski Club of Great Britain. Himself a former English-style skater, he had been impressed in Switzerland by the freedom of movement of the new international style—the kind of figure skating made familiar today by John Curry and Robin Cousins—and he learnt to perform it.

Back in London, he took the 18-year-old Madge as his pupil and partner, taught her the compulsory figures and free skating, and with her won the NSA's first pair skating competition in 1899. Next year they were second in an international pairs event in Berlin and on June 23, 1900 they were married in Paddington.

In 1902 the world figure skating championship was held in London and Madge made it the occasion for a startling and unprecedented challenge to the male dominance of the sport. When the International Skating Union founded their championships in the 1890s no one thought it necessary to state that they were for men only; it was unthinkable in those days that women should attempt the athletic leaps and physically demanding spins of international-style free skating.

However, the unthinkable often happens. Madge was accustomed to skating with and against men in the English styles; she did not see why international events should be any different. So seven decades before women's liberation, she sent in her entry form. The ISU were aghast but there was no rule to prevent her competing. Ulrich Salchow, of Sweden, retained his world title but Mrs Syers beat several men and finished second.

After that she was rarely beaten. When the NSA established their own championship in the new style she became British title holder in 1903 and 1904, beating her husband on the second occasion. A separate international event for women (later the world championship) was instituted in 1906 at Davos; Mrs Syers won and successfully defended in 1907 in Vienna.

In 1908 in London she reached the peak of her career. She became the first Olympic gold medallist in women's figure skating and with Edgar was third in the pairs. Thereafter she gave up competitive skating and concentrated on her other sporting interests. She was a keen clay-pigeon shooter and a swimmer: she won the Royal Life-Saving Society's diving contests at Highgate in 1911 and 1912. She loved dogs and horses and was an ardent member of the Society for the Protection of Birds.

When the First World War broke out there were few opportunities for wealthy society ladies like Mrs Syers to take an active part in the war effort but she did what she could. She qualified for the British Red Cross Society's first-aid certificate, like many other women who wanted to give a hand as auxiliaries in hospitals for wounded soldiers.

She was soon to need medical aid herself. On August 22, 1917 she gave birth prematurely to a daughter, Josephine, who lived only 12 hours. Eighteen days later on September 9 Mrs Syers herself died of heart failure after the complications of childbirth.

So passed at the age of only 35 Britain's first world and Olympic skating champion, of whom one journal wrote in 1911: "She is in a class by herself. . . . Her skating seems to be one of those perfectly beautiful things which appeal almost as much to the emotions as to be the senses."

Dennis Bird

Motor racing

Spectre of the 800 bhp petrol guzzler

By John Blunsden

The forbidding prospect of 800 bhp grand prix cars consuming so much fuel that they have to stop for a complete refill halfway through a race is a possibility under the current formula one rule, according to Keith Duckworth, chairman of Cosworth Engineering and designer of the Ford DFV grand prix engine.

Mr Duckworth, an outspoken advocate of a change in formula which would put the accent of success on fuel efficiency rather than on power regardless of the cost, was speaking at a reception in London yesterday when a panel headed by Prince Michael of Kent announced that for the second time he was to receive the Ferodo Trophy for the outstanding Commonwealth contribution to the sport during the year.

Mr Duckworth first took the award in 1967, when his three-litre engine first appeared. At the time he gave it a potential useful life-span of two to three years, yet in its fourteenth year it has powered the winner of eight of this season's 15 grand prix as well as the cars of the new world champion driver and contructor, and its DFX derivative has won the Indianapolis 500 race.

Next year, which could well see the 150th grand prix success for the engine which has been the most stabilizing influence on formula one racing during the past decade and a half, may well mark its swan-song as a competitive power unit.

"In October 1980, when agreement was reached to reduce the fuel capacity of grand prix cars and to ban refuelling from 1983, it looked as though we would still have a chance against the fuel-thirsty turbos," Mr Duckworth said. "But last April, as part of the Concord Agreement, Ferrari slipped in a last-minute rule change when most of the other teams were preoccupied

Cycling

Belgians may dominate first stage

By John Wilcockson

In the past two years the Sealink International has started in The Netherlands and France but in 1982 its 468 miles route begins at Ostend in Belgium with a short time trial prologue on April 19. The finish, as usual, will be in Manchester the following Saturday.

A difficult opening awaits the field of 60 amateurs, which is expected to include teams representing all the countries served by Sealink ferries. The Belgians will be particularly keen to do well on the first stage proper, which starts and finishes in Ostend and covers 70 miles in the classic cycle racing terrain of West Flanders. One high point of this stage will be the steep, cobbled climb of the Kemmelberg, an obstacle in many classic Belgian events.

After the stage, the teams, officials and race journalists will be taken by ferry to Dover and by road to an overnight stop in Folkestone. On April 21, the riders will be faced by their longest day of 121 miles split into two separate races. The first, of 71 miles, will take them across Kent to Gravesend; the second, after a lunchtime drive through the Dartford tunnel, will be a 50-mile sprint across Essex from Basildon to Harlow.

The organizers have not included a team time trial, which proved an unpopular inclusion in this year's event, therefore a more closely fought finish is likely than the one dominated by Czechoslovakia and East Germany last April.

The penultimate stage of 93 miles from Peterborough to Sheffield's Norfolk Park could prove decisive, but a more conclusive result is expected on the final 73 miles to Manchester. This stage traces an intricate route through the Peak District, including the infamous Cat and Fiddle Pass

Rugby League

Great Britain at full strength at last

By Keith Macklin

For the first time in nine international matches, the Great Britain managers, Colin Hutton and John Whiteley, are able to announce that the team to play France at Hull next Sunday is unchanged from the original selection. In all previous games under the management pair, Great Britain, Great Britain Under-24 and England teams have had to be chopped and changed, often at the last minute, through injuries.

There was the usual scare before yesterday's announcement of a clean bill of health. David Ward, the Leeds hooker who will captain Great Britain, had missed last Sunday's league game at Wigan and there were fears that his badly bruised chest would not stand up to rigorous examination. However, Ward passed a fitness test and will lead the Great Britain team in the first of the two internationals against France.

The most interesting aspect of the side in the new-look half-back pairing. Hartley, the free-scoring Hull Kingston Rovers stand-off half, is paired with the lively new Widnes scrum half, Gregory, in a volatile, untried and potentially match-winning partnership behind the scrum. The Great Britain team is:

G. Fairbairn (Hull KR); D. Drummond (Leigh), M. Smith (Hull KR), J. Woods (Leigh), H. Gill (Wigan); S. Hartley (Hull KR), A. Gregory (Widnes); J. Grayshon (Bradford Northern), D. Ward (Leeds, captain), T. Skerrett (Hull), L. Gorley (Widnes), P. Gorley (St Helens), S. Norton (Hull). Substitutes: M. Burke (Widnes) and E. Szymala (Barrow). Reserve to travel: D. Watkinson (Hull KR).

French changes: Injuries have forced France to make two changes to the side which faces Great Britain. Ratier of Lezignan has been called into the centre to replace Laumond of Villefranche and Scicchitano of Le Pontet comes in at scrum half for Alard of Carcassonne.

Fontwell Park programme

12.45 FERRING CHASE. (Selling: £850: 2m 2½f) (9 runners)

1	010f03	ASK ME NICELY (CD,B), (L Johnson) R Atkins, 7-11-7	R Linley
3	3u40-00	LUCKY RUNNER (O Pierce) D Gandolfo, 7-11-7	P Barton
5	031f00	PAULDENAM (CD), (A Dean) R Dean, 10-11-7	J Akehurst 7
6	b/0-p40	THE GRANDSON (C), (Dr W Fullerton) W Fullerton, 10-11-7	G Old
7	-p00402	TIGHT SCHEDULE, (J Bridger) J Bridger, 11-11-7	J Suthern
8	uf03f4/	BETTER THAN EVER, (C Popham) C Popham, 9-11-2	Mr C Popham
9	0-0f202	EWEN'S ROCK (B), (Mrs P Woodfield) J Bradley, 7-11-2	P Liddicoat 7
10	00104/p	JOLLY MELODY (B), (C Pester) W R Williams, 8-11-2	Lorna Vincent
13	ppr4/00	WONDAYLE (B), (Mrs J Knight) N Lee-Judson, 9-11-2	J Hughes 4

9-4 Tight Schedule, 7-2 Ask Me Nicely, 4 Pauldenham, 9-2 Ewen's Rock, 10 The Grandson, 12 Jolly Melody, 14 others.

1.15 WORTHING HURDLE (Div 1: novices: £552: 2¼m) (17)

1	33f410	CHANCE FLIGHT, (R Short) J Jenkins, 5-11-8	M Harrington 4
2	211b00	LYNWOOD LADY, (D Lee) F Muggeridge, 4-11-0	R Muggeridge 7
3	100	PRINCE NORTHFIELDS (CD), (Mrs V Maynard) Mrs N Smith, 4-11-0	—
4	0/p4-0p	BROGUE, (K Higson) A Moore, 5-10-12	G Moore 4
5		FELIPA, (Mrs P Crowley) J O'Donoghue, 7-10-12	R Rowell
6	2p0/0	FRIMLEY TOWN, (Mrs C Leather) V Soane, 5-10-12	V Soane
7	p/0300-	HONEST EDGAR, (C Popham) C Popham, 6-10-12	Mr C Popham
8		ICKWORTH PARK, (R Howe) R Howe, 7-10-12	G McNally
10	340-000	PROVOKING, (N Mitchell) N Mitchell, 5-10-12	Mrs E Mitchell
11	p	RARE RAPTURE, (A Brazier) H Beasley, 6-10-12	R Linley
13		WILLING'S PROMISE, (J Bentley) J Jenkins, 7-10-12	H Jenkins 7
15	2-0	DUTCH CHALLENGER, (M Heinimann) D Morley, 4-10-9	B Davies
17	04	KINGFAST, (J Hamper) D Mills, 4-10-9	A Madgwick 7
18	040	MARSTAIN, (G W Martin Ltd) R Head, 4-10-9	R Goldstein
19	00p000	PHEASANT BRIDGE, (W Williams) J Bradley, 4-10-9	P Liddicoat 7
20	000-0	RHYTHM STICK, (M Rawlings) M Rawlings, 4-10-9	C Brown
21	0p-0000	THE TURNED REVENGE (B), (Mrs C Stoner) J Bridger, 4-10-9	J Suthern

13-8 Prince Northfields, 3 Dutch Challenger, 4 Chance Flight, 10 Lynwood Lady, 14 Provoking, 16 Marstain, 20 Willing's Promise, 25 others.

1.45 NICKEL COIN CHASE, (Handicap: £2,452: 2m 2½f) (9)

2	31/00-p	GATHERING STORM, (Burn Leisure) R Howe, 10-11-9	B De Haan
3	p-00340	SOUTHERN MOBILE, (Southern Caravan Group) J Gifford, 8-11-6	R Champion
4	02-311p	GREY FUSILIER (CD), (T Hayward) Mrs N Smith, 6-11-6	J Francome
8	1232-22	THE HERB (CD), (Mrs D Whigham) Mrs D Oughton, 6-10-8	M Coyle 4
9	024-0f0	QUEEN OF THE BOGS, (C Henty) P Bailey, 8-10-0	A Webber
10	01/44f-	DAVIDS FOLLY (B), (Miss P Barnes) Miss P Barnes, 8-10-0	C Brown
11	f-44403	GLISSANDO (CD), (M Bevan) B Wise, 8-10-0	R Rowell
12	000204	ROCKBARTON, (K Higson) A Moore, 6-10-0	J Suthern
13	3-22021	MOULDY OLD DOUGH, (Mrs F Muggeridge) F Muggeridge, 12-10-0	T Muggeridge 7

9-4 The Herb, 11-4 Grey Fusilier, 4 Glissando, 13-2 Southern Mobile, 8 Rockbarton, 12 Queen of the Bogs, 14 others.

2.15 E COOMES HURDLE (Handicap: £3,225: 2¼m) (14)

1	3411p-0	KILLER SHARK (CD), (Ld Cadogan) G P-Gordon, 6-11-11	S Smith Eccles
2	0441/00	DANISH KING, (K Higson) A Moore, 7-11-0	G Moore 4
3	100f-03	GREAT DEVELOPER (CD), (D Sanger) D Nicholson, 4-10-10	P Scudamore
4	403-021	UPTON BISHOP (CD), (T Hayward) Mrs N Smith, 7-10-8	J Francome
6	0/2400-	NIGHT WATCH (C), (P Mellon) I Balding, 7-10-8	B Riley
7	14411	TEA-POT (CD), (Mrs M Smith) M Blanshard, 5-10-5	C Brown
9	4-00041	MR MOONRAKER, (Mrs P Blackburn) Miss S Morris, 4-10-3 (6 ex)	M O'Halloran
10	32-0403	BICKLEIGH BRIDGE, (S Burfield) R Hodges, 7-10-2	C McIlratrick 7
11	030-004	COLD JUSTICE, (Miss M Robins) C Benstead, 8-10-1	R Rowell
12	0/0004-	DUTCH TREAT, (Mrs H van der Ploeg) H Price, 8-10-0	C Gwilliam 4
13	11332	STAND EASY (CD), (W O'Dwyer) I Wardle, 4-10-0	M Williams
14	03-3020	NORTH WEST, (F Hill) M Masson, 6-10-0	B D Haan
15	21010-0	DOUCEMENT (CD), (Mrs B Cobden) J Cobden, 5-10-0	R Muggeridge 7
16	00-000p	REBELDE, (D Mills) D Mills, 5-10-0	A Madgwick 7

5-2 Tea-Pot, 5 Bickleigh Bridge, 6 Upton Bishop, 7 Great Developer, 8 Mr Moonraker, 10 Killer Shark, Stand Easy, 12 Night Watch, 14 others.

2.45 AVISFORD CHASE (Novices: £1,270: 3m 2½f) (15)

1	f42-141	SEED PEARL (C), (Mrs F Tyrwhitt-Drake) J Gifford, 8-11-8	R Champion
2	0-20f10	GRAND ARMAGNAC (CD), (Mrs H Flashman) H O'Neill, 6-11-3	G Gracey
4	40-0p31	SERVILIA, (Mrs M Easton) Mrs M Easton, 5-11-2	B De Haan
6	04p2/30	COLLIER DE PERLES, (Ld Somerleyton) D Morley, 7-10-12	B Davies
8	0/00-r	CUCKMERE ISLAND, (E Tomsett) R Head, 8-10-12	R Goldstein
9	p0p0bp	FLAME SPAR (B), (Mrs P Deakin) J Bradley, 8-10-12	P Liddicoat 7
10	0/0p	FREE SPIRIT (B), (A Langmead) J Jenkins, 6-10-12	—
13	pp-0300	HALLEY ROAD, (Mrs L Browning) D Browning, 9-10-12	J Akehurst 7
14	40012-3	MISS PILGRIM, (Mrs J Walter) B Wise, 7-10-12	R Rowell
15	340f43	MULLABODEN, (H Gould) J Fox, 6-10-12	S Jobar
17	f	PERRAN, (Mrs Z Coakes) B Stevens, 9-10-12	Mr B Stevens
18	p022f-0	PRESTBURY, (T Clay) T Clay, 9-10-12	H Davies
19	04-04ff	WILD BEAUTY, (Mrs B Cobden) J Cobden, 7-10-12	P Hobbs
21	2-03222	BIRD STREAM, (Russell Eng. Ltd.) D Gandolfo, 5-10-11	P Barton
23	/004f3-	SPINNING REEL, (H Barnes) Miss P Barnes, 5-10-11	C Brown

11-8 Seed Pearl, 7-2 Miss Pilgrim, 11-2 Servilia, 8 Grand Armagnac, 12 Bird Stream, 14 Mullaboden, 16 Collier De Perles, 20 others.

3.15 WORTHING HURDLE (Div II: novices: £552: 2¼m) (13)

1	231214	SKEHEENS (B), (Mrs L Simpson) J Edwards, 6-11-8	—
2	000-124	HAVERHILL LAD (CD), (Mrs B Tanner) G Blum, 5-11-3	S Smith Eccles
3	220-000	AFTER SHAVE, (D Iles) H Beasley, 5-10-12	P Scudamore
4	f02000	BEAU WYNK, (F Chamberlain) A Chamberlain, 8-10-12	Mr A Chamberlain
5	/0330-r	BIHAS BOUNTY (B), (D Goodwin) D Goodwin, 5-10-12	R Hughes
6	0	BUSTABY, (D Mills) D Mills, 5-10-12	A Madgwick 7
7	0	CHANCEBEG, (Mrs N Goulandris) J Gifford, 5-10-12	R Champion
9	00-	DOWN TO DARKIE, (R Fairley) M Haynes, 6-10-12	R Hughes
13	3023-3f	LEITH HILL FLYER, (O Reed) A Pitt, 5-10-12	I Cox 4
14	0000/00	PEAK CONDITION, (Mrs S Blackman) H Beasley, 5-10-12	G Gracey
15	0/30-00	RED RONAN (B), (M Sanderson) Miss A Sinclair, 8-10-12	J Francome
17	u023	GREY GATE, (D Underwood) D Underwood, 4-10-9	J Redmond 4
18	2000p-0	PRIME CAPTIVE, (K Higson) A Moore, 4-10-9	G Moore 4

5-4 Skeheens, 5 Red Ronan, 6 Haverhill Lad, 7 Leith Hill Flyer, 8 Grey Gate, 10 Chancebeg, 14 Down to Darkie, 16 others.

Fontwell Park selections

By Michael Seely

12.45 Ask Me Nicely. 1.15 Chance Flight. 1.45 The Herb. 2.15 Tea-Pot. 2.45 Servilia. 3.15 Skeheens.

Ayr programme

12.30 LAGG HURDLE (Div I: novices: £578: 2m) (6 runners)

1	20-412	CASH IN HAND (D), (C Collins) W A Stephenson, 5-11-3	R Lamb
2	00-2001	KENBALLY (CD), (Mrs B Kearney) I Ferguson (Ire), 5-11-3	M Lynch
3	23-2331	LYNE MILL, (D Swindlehurst) D Swindlehurst, 7-11-3	Mr D Swindlehurst 7
5	f00/	MICKCONE, (J Henderson) J Henderson, 6-10-10	J O'Neill
6	00-0	PAMASK, (Mrs A Robertson) D Robertson, 5-10-10	Mrs A Robertson
8	4	SUPER SOLO, (A Davidson) G Richards, 5-10-10	R Barry

11-8 Kenbally, 15-8 Cash in Hand, 6 Lyne Mill, 10 Super Solo, 12 Mickcone, 20 Pamask.

1.0 CARCLUIE CHASE (Handicap: £1,625: 2m) (5)

1	022-242	ICE PLANT (CD), (Lady Cadogan) N Crump, 9-11-11	C Hawkins
2	02-f3pf	POLARS LADDIE (D), (R Goldie) R Goldie, 8-11-3	A Dickman
3	p1p-220	PERCIPIENT (D), (K Gooddall) G Richards, 7-11-0	R Barry
4	f14-11f	BLACKHAWK STAR (D), (Blackhawk NSOS) K Oliver, 7-10-13	Mr T B Dun
5	200pp4	PAMPERED SOVEREIGN (D Dixon) V Thompson, 10-10-0	Mr M Thompson 7

7-4 Percipient, 5-2 Ice Plant, 3 Blackhawk Star, 9-2 Polars Laddie, 12 Pampered Sovereign.

1.30 FISHERTON HURDLE (Handicap: £1,247: 2m) (8)

1	124400	CORKER (D), (P Piller) W A Stephenson, 5-11-10	R Lamb
2	124/0-0	LOCHRANZA, (H Michael) E Carr, 10-11-5	Miss Y Carr 4
3	000004-	PENSCYNOR (D), (F Chapman) M Lambert, 5-11-3	A Brown
4	10-0000	HIGH HILLS (CD,B), (3-D Trucks Ltd) T Craig, 7-11-3	Mr T Dun
5	310-310	GALATCH (CD), (W Wells) W Wells, 4-11-1	J O'Neill
8	121414	POUNENTES (D,B), (W McGhie) G Richards, 4-10-10 (4 ex)	R Barry
10	0010-0	FERNEZ (D), (H McConnell) H McConnell, 6-10-4	Mrs A Robertson
11	0100-00	ANOTHER JOYFUL, (J Dixon) J Dixon, 6-10-0	Mr B Storey 7

9-4 Pounentes, 7-2 Corker, 4 Lochranza, 5 Galatch, 8 High Hills, 10 Penscynor, 12 others

2.0 DUNURE CHASE. (Handicap: £1,831: 3m 110yds) (6)

5	4o03p0-	FAIR VIEW, (M Shone) G Fairbairn, 11-11-7	C Pimlott
6	223-133	RED CLERIC (CD,B), (R Illingworth) M Naughton, 7-11-3	C Grant
7	311-413	WHAT A COUP, (T Dalgetty) T Dalgetty, 6-10-8	J O'Neill
8	41-0321	STAY QUIET (CD), (S Reakes) G Richards, 8-10-7	N Doughty
10	04131-2	LARRY BELL, (B Hathaway) W A Stephenson, 7-10-0	R Lamb
13	2220-03	GENERAL BRUNO (CD), (F Gibbon) F Gibbon, 11-10-0	Mr D Metcalfe

15-8 Larry Bell, 9-4 Red Cleric, 4 What A Coup, 5 Stay Quiet, 8 General Bruno, 10 Fair View.

2.30 CARWINSHOCH CHASE (Novices: £1,242: 2m) (6)

1	40-1021	KUMBI (D), (D Lunt) D McCain, 6-11-10	R Barry
4	1/00p00	KEREN PARK, (J Richardson) W A Stephenson, 7-11-0	R Lamb
5	100-10p	LORD MELBOURNE (B), (A Bell) J S Wilson, 7-11-0	C Grant
6	22002-0	SPARTAN RED, (H McConnell) H McConnell, 11-11-0	Mrs A Robertson
7	03p-f02	VISCOUNT, (Mrs V Thompson) V Thompson, 7-11-0	Mr M Thompson 7
8	0p0-000	HIGH KYPE, (J Hamilton) J S Wilson, 4-10-3	A Stringer 4

8-13 Kumbi, 4 Viscount, 6 Spartan Red, 10 Lord Melbourne, 16 Keren Park, 25 High Kype.

3.0 LAGG HURDLE (Div II: novices: £578: 2m) (7)

1	20-13	MY UNCLE SAM, (R Reynolds) J Kettlewell, 5-11-3	S Kettlewell 7
3		TOWNSHEAD FLASH, (A Bell) A Bell, 5-10-10	A Dickman
4	0	DUNNIKLER HOUSE, (Kingsway Cinemas) K Oliver, 4-10-7	Mr T Dun
6	0-222	HOT PRETENCE, (D Hodgson) J S Wilson, 4-10-7	J O'Neill
7	0-0	LOCH RYAN HOUSE, (Mrs B Kearney) I Ferguson (Ire), 4-10-7	M Lynch
8	f2330	RENRESBO, (Westwood Garages) M Naughton, 4-10-7	G Bradley 4
9	40	SUPREME BID, (Ld Cadogan) N Crump, 4-10-7	C Hawkins

2 Hot Pretence, 3 My Uncle Sam, 5 Supreme Bid, 6 Loch Ryan House, 8 Renbrebo, 10 Dunnikler House, 16 Townhead Flash.

Ayr selections

12.30 CASH IN HAND is specially recommended. 1.0 Percipient. 1.30 Pounentes. 2.0 Stay Quiet. 2.30 Kumbi. 3.0 Hot Pretence.

Wetherby results

Going: good.

12.30 (12.31) SHEFFIELD HURDLE (Selling handicap: £1,100: 2m)
CORN BELLE, b m by Cornuto-Bellsbeg (J. Poxon) 5-10-7 D Dutton (7-1) 1
Rosie's Secret C. Grant (16-1) 2
Katumba M. Brennan (8-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 43p; places, 11p, 63p, 41p, 38p. Dual F: £19.96. CSF: £13.28. Tricast: £88.71. A. Smith at Beverley. Sledgehammer 9-4 fav. Systems Analysis (11-2) 4th. 17 ran. No bid for winner.

1.0 (1.1) RUFFORTH CHASE (Handicap: £1,534: 2m 50yds)
RATHGORMAN, ch g by Super Sam-Greek Light (J Lilley) 9-12-7 K Whyte (1-2 fav) 1
Treamle M Barnes (5-1) 2
Dusky Duke R Lamb (16-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 12p, places, 10p, 14p. Dual F: 22p. CSF: 35p. M. Dickinson at Harewood. 1l, 10l. Cape Felix (10-1) 4th. 6 ran.

1.30 (1.30) VAUX BREWERIES CHASE (Qualifier novices: £1,298: 3m 100yds)
REALT NA NONA, b m by Northfields-Farina (A McCluskey) 8-11-0 J J O'Neill (5-4 fav) 1
Donjill G Bradley (9-4) 2
Why Forget R Lamb (3-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 17p; places, 13p, 15p. Dual F: 16p. CSF: 42p. M H Easterby at Malton. 2l, 20l. Cocked Hat Trader (25-1) 4th. 7 ran.

2.0 (2.4) TADCASTER HURDLE (3yo novices. £690: 2m)
CYBRANDIAN, b g by Prince Regent-Levenham Rose (I Bray) 10-7 Mr T Easterby (9-2) 1
Ryecroft C Hawkins (10-1) 2
Creative Star A Brown (3-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 61p, places, 20p, 18p, 16p. Dual F: £4.19. CSF: £5.47. M H Easterby at Malton. 1½l, 5l. The Cliftonian 5-2 fav. Blare (12-1) 4th. 24 ran. NR: Jovl.

2.30 (2.32) HARROGATE CHASE (Handicap: £1,567: 2½m 100yds)
ARTIMARVAL, ch g by Articulate-Mavela (R Beeson) 8-11-3 D Dutton (3-1) 1
Castle Arch C Bell (85-40 fav) 2
Flittermere J Hansen (12-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 34p; places, 11p, 15p, 15p. Dual F: 74p. CSF: 99p. J Blundell at Grimsby. 1l, ¾l. Be Free (10-1) 4th. 8 ran.

3.0 (3.1) LEEDS HURDLE (Novices: £690 2m)
LUNAR WIND, ch g Windjammer-Lunar Star (J Parkes) 6-10-7 M Pepper (3-1 fav) 1
Basil's Choice Mr D Browne (7-2) 2
Vinnys Pet M Barnes (16-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 52p; places, 16p, 29p, 50p. Dual F: 84p. CSF: £1.62. J Parker at Richmond. 1½l, 15l. Sir Marcus (9-1) 4th. 22 ran. PLACEPOT: £3.50.

Huntingdon results

Going: Good.

1.0 (1.5) PAXTON HURDLE (Div 1: novices £690: 2½m)
RIGHTHAND MAN, b g by Proverb — Gleann Buidhe 4-11-0 R Earnshaw (6-1) 1
Pabmore B Reilly (11-2) 2
Papafingo S Smith-Eccles (14-1) 3
TOTE: Win; 76p; places; 23p, 19p, 46p. Dual F: £1.02. CSF: £4.29. M Dickinson at Harewood. 2½l, 3l. Cobblers Castle 3-1 fav. Another Dragon (11-2) 4th. 19 ran. NR: Trampler.

1.30 (1.34) TETWORTH CHASE (Novices: £900: 2m 100yd)
CYPO, ch g by Prelo — Cyprid 7-11-4 J Burke (50-1) 1
Cushendall Mr S Andrews (50-1) 2
Denton S J O'Neill (33-1) 3
TOTE: Win; £7.64; places; £1.55, £2.13, 38p. Dual F: £15.10. CSF: £95.52. A Jarvis at Royston. Sh hd, 10l. New Lyric and Toy Master 9-4 jt favs. 11 ran. NR: Nickle Moppett.

2.00 (2.3) HOUGHTON HURDLE (Selling: £506: 2m 200yd)
ROYAL RASCAL gr c by Scallywag — Sea Queen 3-10-10 S Smith-Eccles (9-4 fav) 1
Malford Mist P Scudamore (6-1) 2
Lowndes Court G Jones (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win; 28p; places; 12p, 23p, 37p. Dual F: £1.63. CSF: £1.87. C Spares at Newmarket. Distance, 4l, Candy Street (10-1) 4th. 14 ran. Winner sold for 2,950 gns.

2.30 (2.34) PETERBOROUGH CHASE (£2,351: 2½m)
WAYWARD LAD, b or br g by Royal Highway—Loughnamore 6-11-12 R Earnshaw (1-2 fav) 1
Snowtown Boy J Francome (6-1) 2
Raffi Nelson B R Davies (40-1) 3
TOTE: Win; 13p. Dual F: 20p. CSF: 39p. 4 ran, 3 finished. NR: London Journal.

3.00 (3.1) BEDFORD CHASE (Handicap: £1,640: 3m 100yd)
PRIDE OF TENNESSEE b g by Master Owen — Dromos 8-10-1 C Kinane (11-4) 1
Princely Bid A Webber (6-4 fav) 2
Laaken B R Davies (9-2) 3
TOTE: Win; 55p; places; 22p, 13p. Dual F: 38p. CSF: 67p. J Gifford at Findon. 10l, 12l. Vatican Express (8-1) 4th. 7 ran.

3.30 (3.35) PAXTON HURDLE (Div II: novices: £690: 2½m)
DROMOLAND HILL, br g by Lucky Brief—Esparta 6-12-0 P Barton (13-2) 1
Arctic Meneliek P A Charlton (8-1) 2
Pelaro J Burke (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 43p; places, 22p, 40p, 47p. Dual F: £13.16. CSF: £5.11. D Gandolfo at Wantage. Sh hd, 5l. Jarvis Bay (7-4 fav) 4th. 19 ran. PLACEPOT: Not won. Pool of £855.00 carried forward to Fontwell today.

Kelleway fined over drug

A breakdown in communications between the Newmarket trainer, Paul Kelleway, and racecourse officials led to Kelleway being fined £400 at a Jockey Club inquiry in London yesterday. A urine sample taken from Ribo Charter after he finished second at Lingfield Park in May contained Lignocaine, an anaesthetic drug.

The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee were told that Ribo Charter had arrived at the racecourse stables at Lingfield the evening before the race. The horse injured his nose in the stabl and while being treated he was injected with a local anaesthetic by the racecourse veterinary surgeon. However, Kelleway said that the veterinary surgeon did not tell him the horse had been given the injection until the jockeys had mounted in the parade ring moments before the race.

Kelleway, aged 41, explained after yesterday's inquiry: "Ribo Charter cut his nose in the stables the evening before the race, and as the horse is hard to deal with the racecourse veterinary surgeon gave him an anaesthetic while the wound was treated.

Newton Abbot

12.45: 1, Sterridge Valley (13-2); 2, Royal Baize (9-2); 3, Marine (9-1). Banknote 5-1 fav. 16 ran.

1.15: 1, Jocks Bond (2-1 fav); 2, Godfrey Secundus (16-1); 3, Candy VI (7-1). 10 ran.

1.45: 1, Original Step (11-2); 2, Solid Rock (6-4 fav); 3, Run To Me (11-1). 16 ran.

2.15: 1, Long John (7-2 fav); 2, Risk 'n Hope (13-2); 3, Emperor Napoleon (13-2); 4, Chica's Beau (33-1). 16 ran. NR: Toatley Able.

2.45: 1, Silversmith (2-1); 2, Waltzer (80-1); 3, New Dance (80-1). Fauloon 5-4 fav. 10 ran.

3.15: 1, Toulouse (6-1); 2, Hever (4-1); 3, Sue Lark (6-1); 4, Luxuriate (15-2). Whisky Go Go 9-4 fav. 17 ran.

Athletics

Call for marathon registration and fee system

By Norman Fox
Athletics Correspondent

Chris Brasher, the race director of the London Marathon, suggested yesterday that British athletics should take advantage of the huge financial potential of the event. Over £200,000 has been returned to runners who cannot be accepted for next year's race on Sunday, May 9.

Mr Brasher said: "We are wasting an opportunity we have never had before. We have great athletes like Coe and Ovett, but lack decent facilities. I would like to see a registration system for everyone who wants to enter a marathon, with a fee to be paid into the sport every year."

He explained that at the moment only a pound from each runner in the London Marathon not attached to a club went into athletics, amounting to between £8,000 and £10,000. Entry forms for next year were sent out to 90,000 applicants from all over the world.

Although the police would allow up to 20,000 runners to take part, the organizers cannot cope with more than 16,000. The race will again begin at Greenwich, but the site of the finish has not been decided. The Department of the Environment has not yet given permission for The Mall to be used. The finish could be Trafalgar Square or Westminster.

The organizers still hope permission will be given for The Mall to be used, and Jimmy Savile, who ran last year, says he will write to the Queen to ask permission. He said yesterday: "It is a tremendous event and if we can run down The Mall it will make a big difference". He intends running again next year.

Brasher: lack of decent facilities.

Savile said: "The marathon has given me a new lease of life. It has given me more pleasure than the pop scene in the sixties with the Beatles." Last year he took four hours to finish, but recently he ran 3hr. 48min.

Enthusiasm for the race is such that 35,000 entries have had to be rejected. The organizers originally wanted 14,000 to run but they will now accept a further 2,000. The names will be decided by lottery.

Badminton

Mrs Gilks withdraws

Gillian Gilks, unhappy at being seeded No 3, has withdrawn from the English national championshops at Coventry from December 11 to 13. She claimed in a letter to the Badminton Association that it would seriously affect her commercial interests.

Mrs Gilks was expected to defend the singles title she had won eight times previously. She was in the easier half of the draw and still had an excellent chance of reaching the final. Mrs Gilks was expected to play the unseeded Karen Bridge, of Surrey, in the quarter-finals and then the No 2 seed, Jane Webster, of Suffolk, in the semi-finals.

Consequently, Mrs Gilks, who said she would still compete in the doubles, may be in trouble again with the England badminton authorities. A spokesman said yesterday that she was in breach of regulations by withdrawing from the championships without good reason.

Mrs Gilks said: "I considered it an insult to be ranked outside the top two. That is why I pulled out. I am ranked No 1 in the country, the defending champion, and have won the title eight times. There is no one else in the championship who has ever won the title, so I cannot see the justification for seeding me as they have done."

Tennis

Miss Allen loses to Mrs Cawley and her support

Melbourne, Dec 1.—Evonne Cawley, of Australia, making her third comeback, beat Leslie Allen, of the United States, in the second round of the Australian Open here today.

Mrs Cawley, the former Wimbledon champion, who has returned to the game after the birth of her second child, fought back from 4—2 down in the final set to gain a 5—7, 6—3, 6—4 victory.

Miss Allen later criticized the crowd who, in their overwhelming support for Mrs Cawley, regularly clapped the American's errors. The unseeded Miss Allen, who was close to tears at a press conference afterwards, said: "I could tell how many mistakes I made by the way the crowd applauded. If I hit a winner there was a whisper of an ovation".

Mrs Cawley said she was slightly embarrassed by the applause. "I feel for the other player, but on the other hand I am at home and it's great that they are behind me", the eighth seed added.

RESULTS (Australians unless stated): First round: B Bunge (WG) beat B Remilton, 6—0, 6—0; H Sukova (Czechoslovakia) beat A Smith (US), 6—4, 6—1; S Barker (GB) beat A Minter, 6—1, 6—3; K Jordan (US) beat P Teeguarden (US), 4—6, 6—3, 6—3. Second round: H Mandlikova (Czechoslovakia) beat N Yeargin (US), 6—2, 6—3; T Austin (US) beat S Leo, 6—1, 6—1; M Blackwood (Canada) beat S Saliba, 4—6, 6—3, 6—2; C Evert Lloyd (US) beat B Gadusek (US), 6—2, 6—1; C Reynolds (US) beat B Stove (Netherlands), 7—5, 6—3; A Jaeger (US) beat A Hobbs (GB), 6—3, 6—1; J Durie (GB) beat L Antonoplis (US), 6—0, 7—6; E Cawley beat L Allen (US), 5—7, 6—3, 6—4; W Turnbull beat A White (US), 6—2, 4—6, 6—3; M Navratilova (US) beat A Tobin, 6—0, 6—1; M Jausovec (Yugoslavia) beat S Walsh (US), 4—6, 6—2, 6—3; P Shriver (US) beat D Desfor (US), 6—1, 6—3.—Reuter.

Bournemouth saved by sponsors

The British hard court championships at Bournemouth have been saved by a new three-year agreement with the sponsors, State Express. But there will be no women's tournament.

The future of the championships, once among the most important tournaments in the international tennis calendar, has been in doubt. Now, the Lawn Tennis Association have agreed that the 1982 championships, staged at Bournemouth from April 20 to 25, will carry prize money of £55,555 and have a new title—the State Express Tennis Classic. It will be a part of the Volvo grand prix circuit and have 32 competitors in singles and doubles. The LTA hope to stage a women's tournament at a different venue during the same week.

Jim Cochrane, the LTA chairman, said: "We have to face the cold reality that we cannot return to the days when all the leading lady tennis players in the world graced the courts at Bournemouth. We have had long discussions with the Women's Tennis Association but can come to no agreement. Consequently and regretably we have had to drop the women's events from the programme."

Bournemouth is to stage an "over 35" event for men. This has already attracted entries from Ilie Nastase and the former American Davis Cup player Charlie Pasarell. Mr Cochrane said he was delighted that the new agreement with the sponsors would give the LTA the opportunity to rebuild the tournament and get it back to its "former glory days".

Book review

Stroll down Memory Lane with a furious driver

By Peter Ryde

Pat Ward-Thomas, for many years golf correspondent of *The Guardian* and still writing off a low handicap for *Country Life*, has produced an autobiography (*Not Only Golf*, Hodder and Stoughton, £7.95) covering the time from the day when he parachuted from a Wellington bomber over the Netherlands until the time, some 40 years later, when he came to earth among the pheasants in a corner of Norfolk.

In the years between the author mingled with the exalted in the world of golf, enabling him to throw uncommon light on the heroes of the game in the period broadly covered by the Big Three—Palmer, Player, and Nicklaus. One might be tempted to describe the book as a pleasant stroll down Memory Lane, were not strolling too leisurely a word for one who has fumed away so many hours in airport lounges and driven so many frenzied miles towards the next destination.

Car-park attendants throughout the world, and not a few waiters, would fail to appreciate the truth of Alistair Cooke's reference to the author's "unfailing geniality to man . . ." Anything that impeded his progress roused his fury. He reserved a specially strong brand of it for inanimate objects—mislaid sun glasses, the car in front, those crazy stamp machines to be found in American hotel lobbies (he nearly had one up by its roots in Cleveland).

Such impatience might be attributed to the years spent behind barbed wire, but deprivation of that kind is more likely to accentuate qualities already implanted. I prefer to think that his sense of urgency arose from a deep concern for, and love of, his job. He gave it everything. A fiery nature, an eye for beauty, a poetic streak—the last two characteristics come over strongly in his writing—probably owe as much to the Welsh blood in him as to anything else.

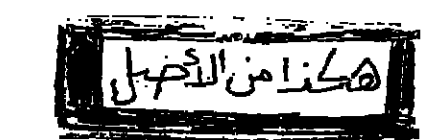
What the prison camp gave him, the book suggests, was the chance to develop his passion for sport. His account of golf in Stalag Luft III, which has become a minor classic of its kind, provides a powerful lead-in to his later years. He has also derived much pleasure from cricket, and these two aspects of his career are reasons for giving the book the name that he has, even though his devotion to golf has been absolute.

There is another reason. The title owes something to the style in which the book is written. He is not concerned in it with run of play. He turns the pages of memory lightly and comes up with agreeable accounts, written in mellifluous language, of meeting nice people in nice places. He has made friends with his heroes and introduces the reader with a light touch to their circle.

Perhaps more than any of his contemporaries he has felt the irritations of a journalist's daily routine, but his writing does not show that. What comes through in the book, rather, is the sound, when work is finished, of ice tinkling in a glass enjoyed on a verandah with a view, and the asides, heard only by him, of those who played principal roles in the golfing dramas of the last quarter of a century.

Teeing off in Tunisia

The leading professional golfers of Britain and Ireland should compete in the £60,000 Tunisian Open championship, which begins the next European golf season from April 15 to 18. This assurance was given to the Professional Golfers Association officials over the weekend during planning meetings at the El Kantaoui course.



Residential Property by Baron Philips

Housing market faces a winter of gloom

Leading estate agents are steeling themselves for a lean winter. Agents both in London and elsewhere are reporting a dampening down of the market as Christmas looms nearer.

According to Chestertons' senior residential partner, Mr Bruce MacEacharn, London's mini-boom of the past eight months is unquestionably over. Although Mr McEacharn makes no claims that the market in the capital is dead, he is adamant that life for him and his colleagues is going to be a lot quieter.

The sentiment is echoed by south coast agents Jackson & Jackson who, in their annual review, say that it is likely to be some considerable time before prices begin to rise again.

This year has seen sales in Chestertons' six central London offices increase by 17 per cent with last October witnessing activity as substantial as the same month in 1980. But, according to Mr MacEacharn, the tide is beginning to turn and the agents are carrying far more property on their books than they have for many years.

This year is hardly likely to be remembered as the year in which foreign buyers dominated London's property market. But a surprisingly high proportion of houses and flats was sold to overseas buyers. According to Chestertons, a third of all property they sold went to an overseas purchaser but in value terms foreigners accounted for 44 per cent of sales.

A surging pound on the foreign exchange markets will put paid to an increase in the number of overseas buyers but those already contemplating a London purchase may be able to pick up a bargain or two as the market slips into the doldrums.

Some indication how far the market has slipped since the heady days of the late 1970's can be seen from two top of the range deals concluded by Chestertons this year. The firm sold a modern flat for just over £1m, a massive fall from its original £3m plus asking price in 1978. While a Kensington flat was first offered for sale in 1979 at £1.5m finally sold for £600,000.

Older houses and flats registered the largest gains this year. The selling price of a flat in Wynstay Gardens, Kensington, was 27 per cent higher than in 1979 while an older house in Blomfield Road W9 increased by 20 per cent over the price two years ago.

As Jackson & Jackson note in their review of the year, 1981 will be remembered as the year when interest rates fluctuated wildly, yet there was more money available for the mortgage market than probably any time since the boom. But most agents will admit there are more properties on their registers than they have willing buyers for — in short this year turned rapidly from a seller's market to a buyer's one.

A general lack of confidence in the economy has inspired this somewhat extraordinary situation. Yet there has been a tremendous upsurge in the number of first-time buyers flooding into the market. In a speech to the Maketing Society last week Barratt Developments sales and marketing director Mr J. S. R. Swanson said that home ownership in Britain should move from 56 per cent to 60 per cent by the end of this decade. Much of this thirst for home ownership is coming from young people.

While all this may be true, builders like Barratt's are gearing more and more of their operation to first-time buyers where obviously the current strength of the market lies. This has little or no effect on the more general house market because it is receiving very little stimulation from buyers trading up.

The next few months will be quiet. The prospect of trailing around dozens of houses and flats in cold damp weather appeals to few but the hardy. Come spring and the market can expect to pick up again — or at least interest in house buying will be on the move. Whether this will be reflected in an upward swing in prices is not sure. Most commentators believe that a return in confidence in the economy must happen before prices start to rise.

☐ Time-sharing in England has mainly been based around spectacular country house offering substantial and grand accomodation with many facilities available, at a price. But one of the latest schemes is for people who want a holiday home where all is peace, quiet and remoteness.

Within the 12 acres of grounds surrounding a 17th century house called Carvynick in Cornwall, close to Newquay and 12 miles from Truro, the owners have built a cluster of one and two bedroom cottages.

The scheme has been put together by two couples Mike and Anne Burgess and John and Anne Gaskain, the latter couple actually live in the main house. The units are well fitted out and in the grounds there is a clubhouse with a bar and restaurant. It is ideal for people who want to get away from the normal hurly-burly and simply relax for a week or two in the country.

Prices for the scheme vary from £520 to £3,900 a week plus management charges of £45 a year. Sales are being handled through Holiday Timeshare Index, 1 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2 and prospective purchasers can look at the project on a special free weekend inspection trip.

The Salisbury office of Strutt & Parker together with Walworth & Co of Mere, are selling Knapp House, Gillingham in Dorset. Standing in about 4½ acres, the Grade 11 listed seventeenth/eighteenth century house has three reception rooms, six bedrooms, two dressing rooms and three bathrooms. In addition, there are two cottages in the grounds.

☐ A fine Tudor house on the edge of London is on the market through Bairstow Eves' Hornchurch office for around £200,000. The house, Capel Nelmes, is at Emerson Park, Hornchurch, Essex.

Constructed of timber frame with a peg tiled roof, the house has nine bedrooms and about six reception rooms. Its features include a 300-year-old staircase, a "minstrels gallery", some fireplaces, exposed woodwork, and it stands in about 1½ acres of secluded grounds.

Lemington Manor, a seventeenth-century manor house, near Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire, has been sold for around £180,000 through Lane Fox & Partners. The property has seven bedrooms, three bathrooms and two fine reception rooms and stands in about 19 acres.

". . . AND THE GLORY of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."—Isaiah 40: 5.

BIRTHS

BOGGIS.—On 28th November, at St. Thomas's Hospital, to John and Jennifer (nee Coultas)—twin sons (Thomas Graham and William Robert), brothers for Benjamin.

BREMNER.—On 24th November, 1981, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to Barbara and David—a son.

CARTWRIGHT. — On November 25th, to Penelope, wife of Nigel Cartwright—a son.

FREKE EVANS.—On November 29, to Susan (nee Kent) and Patrick—a son (Piers Carbery), a brother for Tania.

GABRIEL.—On 23rd November, 1981, at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, to Christine (nee Carter) and Thomas Gabriel—a son (Edward Thomas Griffith), a brother for Helen.

JENNER.—On November 28th, at St George's Hospital, London, SW17, to Madeleine (nee Fletcher) and Neil—a son (Nicholas).

JONES.—On November 30th, at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, to Pauline (nee Tyrrell) and John—a daughter (Emily Kate).

LARMAN.—On November 29th, at Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, to Diana (nee Power) and Andrew—a son (Alexander Andrew Thomas).

LOCK.—On November 4, 1981, in Karlstad, Sweden, to Lyolya (nee Modliansky) and Charles—a son (Nicholas Walter), brother for Nadezhda.

PAISNER.—On November 27th, to Susan (nee Spence) and Martin—a daughter (Valerie Rachel), sister to Vickie and Nicholas.

SAMUEL.—On November 27th, at Wrexham, to Rosemary (nee Davey) and Chris—a son (Hugh).

TURNEY.—On 24th November, to Chris and John—a son (Richard William), a brother for David James.

DEATHS

ANDERSON, MARY SOLLORY — of Clifton, Bristol, widow of Guy W. K. Anderson and daughter of the late Mr and Mrs H. D. Gawne, on Saturday, 28th November, at Chesterfield Hospital. Funeral service at Christ Church with St. Ewen, Broadstreet, at 2 p.m. on Friday, 4th December, followed by cremation at Canford. Sprays or bunches of flowers only please direct to Christ Church Porch. Inquiries tel Bristol 23023.

BAMFORTH.—On 30th November 1981, peacefully Pera Rosaline Cecilia (nee Crawford), wife of the late Dr Joseph Bamforth and mother of John. Service at 11am on Saturday December 5th at St Mary's Church, South Stoneham, Swaythling, Southampton.

BURNE.—On November 27th, 1981, Thomas Roper Burne, DSO, AFC, Group Captain RAF (retired), aged 81 years. Cremation at Amersham Crematorium at 11.30 a.m. on Monday, December 7th. No flowers, donations if desired to the British Limbless ex-Servicemen's Association, c/o Cook's Funeral Service, 72 Broad Street, Chesham.

CADGE, ELIZABETH RIO.—Wife of Colonel G. R. Cadge, O.B.E., D.L., Ballygate House, Beccles, on 29th November, 1981, at Beccles Hospital. Private cremation. Service of thanksgiving Holy Trinity, Loddon, [illegible] p.m., Tuesday, 8th December. Family flowers only. Donations Norfolk Handicapped London branch or Friends of the Norwich Cathedral, care of Young's Funeral Directors, Loddon.

COOPER. — On December 1st, 1981, peacefully at home after a long illness courageously borne, Hamish, aged 7 years, much loved son of Alastair and Antonya Cooper, brother of Tabitha and a baby to be born in the spring. Funeral service in South Hinksey Parish Church, Oxford, Friday, December 4th at 2 p.m. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the National Westminster Bank Ltd., 121 High Street, Oxford, for Neuroblastoma Research.

DESPARD.—On November 29th, 1981, peacefully in hospital, Dorothy Violet Noel, aged 87, beloved wife of the late George V. Despard and dearly loved mother of Richard and Patricia. Funeral service on Monday, December 7th at 1.30 p.m. at the Church of the Ascension, Beaufort Road, Ealing, W.5., followed by interment at Chiswick Old Cemetery. Flowers to W. G. Barratt, 368 Chiswick High Road, W.4.

GIBIAN. — On 30th November, 1981, peacefully after a long illness, Maria Gibian, widow of Ernst. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium on Friday, 4th December, at 11.20 a.m. Flowers to J. H. Kenyon Ltd., 83 Westbourne Grove, London, W.2. Tel. 01-229 9861.

GRAHAM.—On November 28th, tragically in a car accident, Patrick Martin, husband of Jenny, son of Alastair and Gundreda, brother of Caroline and Priscilla, much loved. Family service in Bath, Yorkshire, on Friday, December 4th.

GRANT.—On December 1st, 1981, at Edinburgh, James Monteith Grant K.C.V.O. W.S. (formerly Lord Lyon King of Arms). Beloved husband of Yvonne Margaret and dear father of Jane. Service at Warriston Crematorium, Main Chapel, Edinburgh on Friday, 4th December at 2 p.m. to which all friends are invited. (No letters by request).

HOGG.—At Bellevue Nursing Home, Inverness, on 28th November, 1981, Reverend Canon William B. Hogg, M.A., C.F. (retired), formerly of 16 Green Drive, Inverness, beloved husband of the late Muriel Dancer Nolan.

LORAINE.—On November 25th, 1981, at home, Penelope Patience Evelyn. Funeral Mortlake Crematorium, 12.30 p.m. on 3rd December. Flowers to Messrs. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, W.8, by 11.30 a.m.

MARTIN.—On Monday November 30th 1981, peacefully, E. M. Beryl, of Upton House, Littleport, Cambridge, daughter of the late Horace Jo Martin. Funeral service at St George's Church, Littleport on Friday, December 4th at 12 noon. No flowers by request.

MASON. — On November 30th, after a long illness borne with great bravery, Mary, of Cambisgate, Pier Road, Seaview, I.W., formerly of Walton-on-Thames and Weybridge, Surrey. Beloved wife of Arthur, lately chairman of Reckitt and Colman Ltd., and dearly loved mother of Jonathan and Robin (deceased). Funeral private. If desired, donations in her memory to R.N.L.I., c/o Lloyds Bank Ltd., Bembridge, I.W.

NICHOLSON, CAROLINE ELIZABETH.—On November 27th, in an accident, beloved wife of Sir John Nicholson, F.R.C.S., for 55 years. Only daughter of the late Right Rev. F. J. MacNeice, Bishop of Down, and sister of Louis MacNeice, poet. Funeral on December 3rd, at 2 p.m., at St. Mary's Church, Edwin Loach. Inquiries to H. Handley & Co. Bromyard 2216.

O'NEIL.—On November 27th, peacefully in hospital, Dennis, beloved husband of Pam and dearly loved father of Laura and Tessa. Funeral has already taken place. Donations to Pain Control Syringe Fund, Sevenoaks Hospital, Kent, would be welcomed.

ROY.—On 28th November, peacefully at home, Geoffrey (Gerry) Mortimer Rev. OBE, MC, TD, aged 74 years. Much loved father and grandfather. Cremation at Perry Barr Crematorium, Birmingham, at 10am on Friday 4th December. No flowers at his request, but donations if desired to the Army Benevolent Fund.

SOUTHWELL, SIR PHILIP, C.B.E., M.C.—On November the 30th. Dearly loved husband of Mary and father of John and Richard. Funeral service at Tendring Parish Church on Friday, December 4th, at 11.30 a.m. No flowers. A memorial service in January to be announced later.

SPICER.—On Friday, 27th November, suddenly and peacefully at home, Dorothy, widow of Lancelot Dykes Spicer, D.S.O., M.C. Cremation has taken place.

STAMP.—On 30th November, 21 Briar Walk, Blackwell, Darlington, Frances Alice Stamp, dearly loved friend of Margery Curry. Funeral Friday. Service at Darlington Crematorium, at 11 a.m.

TAPP.—On November 27th, Edward Frederick, peacefully at Harold Wood Hospital. Funeral on Friday, December 4th, 10 a.m. at Staple Tawney, followed by burial at Theydon Mount. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the Midland Bank, Hornchurch, to be distributed between R.N.L.I. and Doctor Barnardo's.

THOMAS, KENNETH PETER DAVID.—On 30th November, 1981, Sometime Registrar Westminster County Court. Peacefully at home in his 83rd year. Memorial service St. Andrew's, Hempstead, noon, Tuesday, 8th December, 1981. [illegible] of Saffron Walden.

THOMPSON.—On Saturday, November 28th at 52 Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge, Roland, beloved husband of Evelyn (Babe) and for many years chief clerk of the Cambridge Union. Funeral at 4.40 p.m. on Friday, December 4th, at the Round Church, Cambridge. Ex-Presidents of the Union and others please note.

WASON. — On 30th November, 1981, Eugene Romer, aged 67 years, peacefully at his home, 7 Cavendish Crescent, Bath, after a short illness. Dearly beloved husband of the late Emily and most dearly loved father of John, Virginia, Patricia and David. Private funeral in Scotland. Donations, if desired, may be sent for Cancer Research to Jollys Funeral Directors, Milsom Street, Bath.

WATSON.—On November 27th, 1981, in hospital, Vera Esther Watson of 11 Blakeney Close, N20. Requiem Mass, St John's Church, Whetstone, Friday, December 4th at 11a.m. Flowers to J. H. Kenyon, 01-445 1651. R.I.P.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

EXETER. The Marquess of Exeter. A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Marquess of Exeter will take place at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London, at 12 noon on Wednesday, 9th December, 1981. Tickets should be applied for to the Secretary, National Westminster Bank Ltd., 41 Lothbury, London EC2 2PB.

HERBERT.—A thanksgiving service for Aubrey Herbert will be held at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 16th December at St Gregory's Church, Sudbury, Suffolk.

IN MEMORIAM

LAW. CHRISTINE MAUD (nee Wetherell). — 2.12.50-31.10.76. In Loving Memory.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

ST. GODRIC'S COLLEGE.—Old Students' Reunion will be held on Saturday, 5th December at 4 Arkwright Road, NW3 at 3.30 p.m. Former students warmly invited to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Red Cross volunteers all over Britain are working every day for the welfare of the community. In hundreds of different ways. Bringing help and comfort to the sick, the handicapped, the frail elderly. Please show that you care too. Help us to go on helping, with a donation or a legacy. We can put your care into action.

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HOGG Alfred John Hogg, late of 2 Beach Close, Beach Road, Poole, Dorset, died at Poole, on 24th May, 1981 (Estate about £45,000).
LLOYD, formerly Jackson, nee Knights, Maud Millicent Lloyd, otherwise Maud Lloyd, formerly Jackson, nee Knights, widow, late of 179 Milton Avenue, East Ham, London, E.6, died at North Woolwich, London, E.16, on 24th April, 1980 (Estate about £15,500).
NORCOTT, Hector Norcott, late of 2 Mount Pleasant Cottages, High Road, Balby, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, died at Doncaster, on 27th June, 1981 (Estate about £13,000).
PIRANI, Maurice Russell Pirani, late of The Rectory, Fornham, St. Martin, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, died there, on 23rd July, 1980 (Estate about £6,500).
WOOD, nee BROWN, Frances Wood, nee Brown, widow, late of 67 Kings Road, Swanage, Dorset, died at Poole, Dorset, on 31st May, 1980 (Estate about £6,200).
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B.V.), 12 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LJ, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

WILLIAMS otherwise HATCHER otherwise BAILEY Josephine Elizabeth H WILLIAMS otherwise Josephine Laurence HATCHER otherwise Josephine BAILEY otherwise Elizabeth BAILEY, Spinster, late of 19 Shadwell Road, North End, Portsmouth, died in Portsmouth on 4th May, 1981. Estate about £100. Philip Alan Bailey and the kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV) 12 Buckingham Gate London SW1E 6LJ, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

AS SOLICITORS for Mrs Anita Ward, formerly of London and presently residing in Montreal, Canada, we seek information as to the whereabouts of Ian William George Ward, born in or about London in 1939. Would he or anyone having knowledge of his whereabouts please communicate with: Mr. R. C. T. Harris, Q.C., 505 Dorchester Blvd. West, Fourth Floor, Montreal, Quebec H3Z 1A8.

WILL MR. D. McCARTHY formerly of 99 Iverson Road, London, N.W.3 or anyone knowing of his whereabouts please contact Messers. Anthony Steel & Co. Solicitors, of 330, Kilburn High Road, London N.W.6 (01-328 4367) as soon as possible.

LEITH HILL. Walled garden with planning permission. See Land for sale.
STOCKS HOUSE, Victor Lownes Mansion home. See UK Hols.
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MORRY my Snortibloggs. Good morning. Where? I love you.—Mystery girl.
MAYFAIR SOLICITORS requires personal s/h secretary.—See La Creme.
ST JUDE, St Francis En profonde reconnaissance.—D.
ARTISTS STUDIO to let in W8.—See Rentals.
DARLING PEST I love you always.—Jean.
JONATHAN RABAN winner of Thomas Cook Travel Book Award 1981 will be signing copies of Old Glory at Travel Bookshop, 13 Abingdon Rd., W8. Tel. 01-938 1308 on Thursday, December 3, from 6 p.m.
A ROAD ACCIDENT today can transform affluence into poverty overnight, and most vulnerable are young professional people with heavy commitments and few reserves. With your help P.C.A.C. can bring instant relief to their stricken families. Please send what you can to P.C.A.C., 10 St Christopher's Place, London W1.
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MARIE CURIE.—A living tribute. Please support generously by donation, "In Memoriam" gift, interest free loan or bequest, the humanitarian cancer nursing, welfare and research of the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, now in its 34th year of service to those in need.—124 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9BP.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS HUNGER

Old George has never been very good at cooking, in fact, he can't take care of himself very well at all, so he tends to withdraw from our noisy busy world. He is a nice independent old man (87) but very lonely.

He won't be lonely or hungry this Christmas for we will be caring for him at a local Day Centre. We would like to care for thousands of others who are in a similar desperate plight but we need your help. Will you give thanks for your own happy Christmas by helping someone like old George.

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR SHARING AND CARING
HELP THE AGED— HELP THE FRAIL.
PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE HON. TREASURER, HELP THE AGED, ROOM T10, FREEPOST 30, LONDON W1E 7JZ (NO STAMP NEEDED).
Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

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		Hotel HB	2	28	11 Dec	£189
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			3	7	5 Dec	£75
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RENTALS

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WOULD companies and embassies looking for exclusive property in Central London from £100 p.w. contact Flats de Ville, 01-936 1721.
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W.2. S/c furn. garden flat, 2 bed, 1 rec. suit 3. £80 p.w. 229 2781.
UNFURNISHED flats wanted f & f purchased. 602 4671 Dixon & Co.
AMERICAN Executive seeks luxury flat or house up to £350 p.w. Usual fees required.—Phillips Kay & Lewis, 839 2245.
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S.W.3 F share elegant flat with M exec. Own room + bath. £60 p.w. inc. 240 3265 day.
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S.W.13. PROF. m/f. Lux. flat. Large dble, close Tube. £125 pcm. 741 0958, eves.
N.W.1. 2nd PERSON. Own room, nice flat, £100 p.c.m. 214 6516 (day) 485 2979 (eve).
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W.2.—Prof. male, 25 +, own room, parking. £25 p.w. 402 5984.

RENTALS

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CONVENIENT WESTMINSTER.—19-yr-old sec seeks own room in shared flat/house. 0403 730 481 pm.
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SW11.—Prof person share large C.H. house. Own room. £30 p.w. incl. 228 5390 or 248 7715.
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S.W.18.—Prof. man, share house, own room. £25 p.w. excl. 874 4993.
PUTNEY.— Prof. person, own room, luxury flat, near Tube. pref non-smoker, £130 p.c.m. 831 6191 ext 29 day; 874 0852 eve.
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LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of ATLE STEVEDORING Limited and in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above-named Company, which is being VOLUNTARILY WOUND UP, are required, on or before the 17th day of December, 1981, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Ronald McCulloch Matheson of Flat 7, Courtlands, 17 Court Downs Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 2LN, the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 26th day of November 1981.
R M MATHESON, Liquidator

In the Matter of CIAOFRUT (UK) Limited and in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 2nd day of January, 1982, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Stephen Daniel Swaden FCA of 3/4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA, the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 23rd day of November 1981.
S. SWADEN Liquidator

PLAZA TEXTILES Limited

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of the COMPANIES ACT, 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 3/4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA on Tuesday the 8th day of December 1981 at 12 o'clock midday, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.

Dated the 23rd day of November 1981.
FRANK ASHBOURNE Director

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1981-82
BRITISH WATERWAYS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament in the present Session by the British Waterways Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") for leave to introduce a Bill in relation to their undertaking in England and Wales under the above name or short title, for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:—

1. The amendment of section 16 (Canal byelaws) of the British Transport Commission Act 1954 in its application to the Board to provide for the prescribing of standards of equipment and construction of vessels.
2. The amendment of the Board's enactments governing the periods of and charges for the issue of pleasure boat and houseboat certificates and the extension of the Board's powers to recover charges due or payable to them for the use of their inland waterways.
3. The obtaining of information as to the masters or owners of vessels on the Board's inland waterways or reservoirs.
4. The control of unsafe vessels on the Board's inland waterways and reservoirs, the removal of vessels sunk, stranded or abandoned, or left or moored without lawful authority and the removal of objects other than vessels from such inland waterways or reservoirs.
5. The enactment of provisions whereby the undertakings of other navigation authorities may be transferred to the Board, the classification as cruising waterways of certain waterways of the Board and the obtaining of particulars of persons interested in land.
6. The repeal of local statutory provisions in relation to Rocksavage Bridge, Cheshire and Stoke Bardolph Ferry, Nottinghamshire.
7. The enactment of provisions in relation to the Grand Union Canal Company Superannuation Fund.

On and after the 4th day of December 1981 a copy of the Bill for the intended Act may be inspected and copies obtained at the price of 60p for each copy at the undermentioned offices.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it. If the Bill originates in the House of Commons, the latest date for depositing such a Petition in that House will be 30th January 1982; if it originates in the House of Lords, the latest date will be 6th February 1982. Further information may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments in the House of Lords, the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the under mentioned Parliamentary Agents.

DATED this 1st day of December 1981.
J. M. McKEAN, Solicitor, British Waterways Board, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, London, NW1 6JX.
SHERWOOD & CO., Queen Anne's Chambers, 3 Dean Farrar Street, Westminster, London, SW1H 9LG. Parliamentary Agents.

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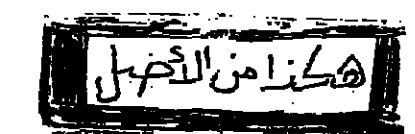


Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

9.05 For Schools, Colleges: Engineering Production 9.38 Science Workshop 10.00 You and Me. Swing and Sway with Jamila Massey (not Schools) (r) 10.15 Everyday maths 10.38 Statistics 11.00 The Christmas Tree Fairy 11.17 Read On! 11.40 Looking Ahead 12.05 French conversation 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart 12.57 Regional news (not London) 1.00 Pebble Mill at One, with Katherine Whitehorn of The Observer illustrating her culinary expertise 1.45 Fingerbobs. Shapes, introduced by Rick Jones (r) 2.01 For Schools and Colleges: The Nativity 2.18 Near and Far 2.40 Merry-go-round 3.00 Snooker. Live coverage of the first semifinal in the United Kingdom Championships being played at the Guild Hall, Preston. David Vine introduces the action. 3.53 Regional news (not London)

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC 2)
4.20 Cartoon: Touché Turtle in Thumb Hero (r)
4.25 Jackanory. Emily Richard reads the third part of Kate Seredy's The Good Master
4.40 The Record Breakers introduced by Roy Castle and Norris McWhirter
5.05 John Craven's Newsround
5.10 God's Wonderful Railway. The last programme in the series about the building of the Great Western Railway (r)
5.40 News with Richard Baker 6.00 Regional news magazines 6.25 Nationwide
6.55 Film: The Rare Breed (1966) starring James Stewart and Maureen O'Hara. A lady and her daughter arrive in Texas with a Hereford bull hoping to make their fortunes. The ranchers are chary about letting the bull mate with a Texas Longhorn so the enrichment process takes a little longer than expected
8.30 Wilfred and Eileen. The fourth and final episode in the love story based on fact. The wounds inflicted during the First World War are affecting their relationship

9.00 News with John Humphrys
9.25 Sportsnight introduce by Harry Carpenter. There are highlights of one of tonight's Football League Cup fourth round matches; Ladies' Downhill Ski-ing from Val d'Isere; Figure Skating from Richmond Ice Rink; and news of the United Kingdom Professional Snooker Championship from Preston
10.50 Parkinson: His guests tonight are Michael Foot and Spike Milligan
11.43 News headlines
11.45 Snooker. Highlights of the day's play in the first semifinal match of the Coral United Kingdom Professional Championship
12.10 Weather

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Cymru/Wales 11.17 am-11.40 I Ysgolion Ffenestri. 11.40-12.05 pm I Ysgolion. Daearyddiaeth. Ghana 12.57-1.00 News of Wales 2.18-2.40 I Ysgolion. Hyn O Fyd. 6.00-6.25 Wales Today 6.55-7.15 Heddiw 7.15-7.40 Pobol Y Cwm. 7.40-8.05 Angels 8.05-8.30 Tarl: 12.10am News and Weather Scotland: 11.40am-12.05 Geography: Understanding Our Environment 12.58-1.00 The Scottish News 2.40-3.00 For Schools: Auchindrain 6.00-6.25 Reporting Scotland 12.10am News And Weather Northern Ireland: 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland News 6.00-6.25 Scene Around Six 12.10am News and Weather England: 6.00pm-6.25 Regional Magazines 12.15am Close.

BBC 2

10.20 Gharbar. A magazine programme with advice for Asian women. 10.45 Closedown. 11.00 Play School. For the under fives introduced by Carol Leader and Don Spencer. Today there is a film story, Brocky the Badger, and it is told by Judy Hawkins. 11.25 Closedown. 3.55 One Man and His Dog. The BBC Television International Sheepdog Championship introduced by Phil Drabble with Eric Halsall. This first semifinal sees Alastair Mundell of Scotland competing against England's Raymond Macpherson. In addition the Brace Championship begins with Jim McConnell of Ireland facing Gwilym Jones from Wales (r).

4.35 Young Musicians 1980. Rowena Wilkinson (harp) plays Glinka's Variations on a Theme by Mozart (r).
4.40 Vikings! In this fourth film about the Viking world, Magnus Magnusson takes a look at the Viking city of York
5.10 The Flying Boats. The second of three films about the flying boats of the 1930s narrated by David Lomax (r).
5.40 The Five Faces of Dr Who.
6.05 Grange Hill.
6.35 Life on Earth. David Attenborough and the Conquest of the Waters.
7.30 News, with sub-titles.
7.35 Cartoon Two (r)
7.50 Collecting Now. The last in the series and the team goes looking for bargains under a fiver.
8.20 Strangeways. Part five and a prisoner makes an allegation of brutality against a warder.

9.00 M*A*S*H. A young nurse's ambition to become a doctor sees the padre, Fr Mulcahy, being led to some embarrassing misunderstandings.
9.25 The Borgias. Cesare, now beyond parental control, has captured Urbino with the help of Leonardo da Vinci. He now rides to Milan to meet with the King of France.
10.20 Grapevine. Jeni Barnett, presenter of this self-help show, has news of a Parish Council that owns a pub and a group of diesel engine makers who, after being made redundant, decided to run the business themselves.
10.50 Newsnight. Up to the minute world and domestic news plus an extended look at some of the stories that made today's headlines. Ends at 11.40.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools: Insight for the hearing impaired 9.47 Picture Box 10,40 The work of the baker 10.16 A visit to the Saumur riding academy 10.38 Living in Bradford 11.02 Christmas celebrations 11.20 The defeat of germs 11.39 How we used to live 12.00 The Munch Bunch. Animated vegetables for the very young 12.10 Rainbow Learning with puppets 12.30 Turning Point. Colin Morris talks to a lady who has found help at Al-Anon, the association that helps families of drinkers 1.00 News with Peter Sissons 1.20 Thames News 1.30 Armchair Thriller: High Tide. Part two and Peter Curtis re-lives the incident that sent him to prison for manslaughter (r) 2.00 After Noon Plus. Among the guests is Ted Watkins, Chairman of Watts Labour Community Action Committee 2.45 Charlie's Angels. The three detectives are given another crime to solve by the unseen Charlie (r) 3.45 Emmerdale Farm (r).

4.15 Cartoon: Mixed Master.
4.20 Madabout. The first of a new series about hobbies introduced by Michael Bentine. His guest is disc jockey Dave Lee Travis.
4.45 Fanfare for Young Musicians. Five more groups of young instrumentalists compete for a place in the limelight.
5.15 The Brady Bunch. The gang, plus former astronaut James McDivitt, look for UFOs.
5.45 News 6.00 Thames News.
6.25 Help! Viv Taylor Gee with news of the various Adult Education Courses that are available in the London area.
6.35 Crossroads. Ron Brownlow has a touching meeting with Iris Scott.
7.00 This is Your Life. Eamon Andrews and his biographical book suprise another notable.
7.30 Coronation Street. The Ogdens go house hunting.
8.00 Bruce Meets the Girls. Eleven of them, in fact, including two of his daughters, join Bruce Forsyth in this comedy and song and dance show.

9.00 Diamonds. The final episode of the drama series based on a family firm of Hatton Garden gem dealers. Frank Coleman, the deposed Managing Director, is trying to win back his position of power. Will his sudden trip to Africa pay dividends?
10.00 News.
10.30 Film: The Parallax View (1974) starring Warren Beatty and Paula Prentiss. A crusading journalist investigates the mysterious deaths of people who witnessed a President's assassination. These investigations lead to a powerful secret agency. The film is directed by Alan J Pakula who was responsible for the tense murder mystery, Klute.
12.45 Close with a reading by Lt Col Blashford-Snell on self-sacrifice, courage and brotherly love.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Midweek: Noel Edmonds.
10.00 News.
10.02 Gardeners' Question Time visits Whittington Women's Institute, Staffordshire.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Morning Story: "Two Friends" by Guy De Maupassant.
11.00 News.
11.05 Baker's Dozen.
12.00 News.
12.02 You and Yours.
12.27 A Walk in the Dark A serial in five parts by Chris Boucher. With Patrick Mower and Helen Atkinson Wood (Part 2).
12.55 Weather.
1.00 News.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: "Two Plus One" by Josephine Hacon.
3.50 The Cities of the Plain: We visit four great cities of northern Italy. (1) Mantua.
4.00 Priestland's Progress† Gerald Priestland offers a plain man's guide to the Christian faith (11) Bread, Water and Wine.
4.45 Story Time: "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" by Charles Dickens (8).
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 The Senior Partner (series) Andrew Cruickshank in "Not Proven".
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Checkpoint.
7.45 The Reith Lectures 1981: "The Two-Edged Sword". Six talks by Professor Laurence Martin, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, on armed force in the modern world (4) "Conflicts of the Third World".
8.15 Sea to the West, Fells to the East: A sound picture of Copeland, a rarely explored part of the Lake District.
8.45 Analysis: "The Lobbyists". A look at the activities of those who claim to oil the wheels of democracy.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.†
9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Quote . . . Unquote (new series) Nigel Rees and his guests share their favourite quotations.
11.00 Book at Bedtime: "The Poor Mouth" by Flann O'Brien (8).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News, Weather.
VHF: 6.25am Weather. 10.00 For Schools. 10.30 Listen with Mother. 11.00 For Schools. 2.00 pm For Schools. 5.50 PM (continued). 11.00 Study on 4.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Your Midweek Choice. Record requests: Mehul, Mozart, Schumann orch Glazunov.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Your Midweek Choice (continued). Boccherini, Schubert, Taneyev.
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer. Sibelius: records.†
10.00 Gabrieli Quartet String Quartet recital: Hadyn, Dvorak.†
11.00 Music for Organ Recital on the organ of the Royal Festival Hall, London: Bach, Brahms, Schoenberg.†
11.35 Midday Concert. Rossini, Prokofiev, Lutoslawski, Schubert.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Concert Hall Piano recital direct from Broadcasting House, London: Hadyn, Franck, Rachmaninov.†
2.00 Music Weekly.†
2.50 BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra Concert: Alan Bush, Elgar, Schumann †
4.00 Choral Evensong from Paisley Abbey.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure †
7.00 Medium and Message: The Changing Medium Russell Davies considers the use of the word "medium", and its plural "media", in the context of mass communications.
7.20 Liszt, Bartok and Debussy Piano recital.†
8.00 Pritchard Conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra Concert, direct from the Royal Festival Hall, London. Part 1: Schubert.†
8.50 Six Continents.
9.10 Concert Part 2: Strauss.†
10.10 Scientifically Speaking. Dr Martin Raff, Professor of Biology at University College, London, in conversation with John Maddox
10.40 Copland Recital: Duo for flute and piano.†
11.00 News.
11.05 Mozart.†
MEDIUM FREQUENCY/MEDIUM WAVE with VHF above except: 6.40-11.00am Cricket: First Test. India v England from Bombay

George Cole and Gwen Watford star in the Afternoon Theatre production Two Plus One (Radio 4 3.02 pm)

Radio 2

5.03 Ray Moore † 7.30 Terry Wogan † 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 John Dunn.† 2.00 Ed Stewart.† 4.00 David Hamilton † 5.45 News. 6.00 Don Durbridge † 8.00 Alan Dell.† 8.30 The Mitchell Minstrels † 9.00 The Boston Pops.† 10.00 Animal Alphabet (5) R-T. 10.30 Hubert Gregg 11.00 Brian Matthew† from midnight 1.00 am Truckers' Hour.† 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Simon Bates 11.30 Dave Lee Travis 2.00 pm Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright 5.00 Peter Powell 7.00 Radio 1 Mailbag Phone in on 01-580 4411 8.00 David Jensen 10.00 John Peel † 12.00 midnight Close VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2 10.00 With Radio 1 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463) at the following times (GMT) — 6.00 Newsdesk 7.00 World News 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 7.30 Letter from London 7.40 Book Choice 7.45 Report on Religion 8.00 World News 8.09 Reflections 8.15 Operetta 8.30 Take it or Leave it 9.00 World News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News 9.40 Look Ahead 9.45 Ray Moore's Album Time 10.15 Classical Record Review 10.30 The Red and the Black 11.00 World News 11.09 News about Britain 11.15 Listening Post 11.30 Meridian 12.00 Radio Newsreel 12.15 Nature Notebook 12.25 The Farming World 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 World News 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary 1.30 Radio Theatre 2.15 Report on Religion 2.30 Three Centuries of Italian Opera 3.00 Radio Newsreel 3.15 Outlook 4.00 World News 4.09 Commentary 4.15 That Big Band Magic 4.45 The World Today 5.00 World News 5.09 Listening Post 5.25 Operetta 8.00 World News 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary 9.15 Music for Strings 9.30 Jazz for the Asking 10.00 World News 10.09 The World Today 10.25 Paperback Choice 10.30 Financial News 10.40 Reflections 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.09 Commentary 11.15 Britain's Daily Newspaper 11.30 Top Twenty 12.00 News 12.09 News about Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel 12.30 Listening Post 12.45 Frank Muir Goes Into 1.15 Outlook 1.45 Six Irish Writers 2.00 World News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Network UK 2.30 Assignment 3.00 World News 3.09 News about Britain 3.15 The World Today 3.30 Just a Minute 4.00 Newsdesk 5.45 The World Today

FREQUENCIES. Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz Radio 3 VHF 90-92 5MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m LBC MF 1152khz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95 8MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94 9MHz World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As Thames except: 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Strumpet City. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 12.2 am5 Big Question.

ULSTER
As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.45-3.45 Strumpet City. 4.13-4.15 News. 5.15 Cartoon. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00-7.00 Good Evening Ulster. 12.25am Bedtime, followed by Closedown.

YORKSHIRE
As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45 Strumpet City. 3:45-4.15 Entertainers With the band, Darts. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 12.25am Closedown.

SCOTTISH
As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Strumpet City. 5.15 Tales of Crime. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.20 Action Line. 6.30-7.00 Report. 12.25am Late Call. 12.30 Closedown.

HTV
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Strumpet City. 5.10 Ask Oscar! 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.30-7.00 Benson. 10.28-10.30 News. 12.25 am Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES
As HTV except: 12.00-12.10 pm Ffalabalam. 4.45-5.10 Goglis. 5.10-5.20 Dick Tracy. 6.00 Y Dydd. 6.15 Report Wales with Michael Lloyd-Williams. 6.30-7.00 Taff Acre.

BORDER
As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Strumpet City. 5.15-5.45 Our of Town with Jack Hargreaves. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 12.25am News. 12.30 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN
As Thames except: 9.25am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Strumpet City 5.15-5.45 Batman. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight 12.25am News. 12.30 Closedown.

GRANADA
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada reports. 2.00 Live From Two. Shelley Rohde talks to people in the news. 2.45-3.45 Bracken. 5.15-5.45 Adventures of Black Beauty. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.25 This Is Your Right. 6.30-7.00 Crossroads. 12.25 am Closedown.

WESTWARD
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Strumpet City. 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00-6.35 Westward Diary. 10.32 News. 10.34 Film: Parallax View (see Thames). 12.25 Faith For Life. 12.31 Closedown.

SOUTHERN
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25 Amazing Years of Cinema: The Magicians. 2.45-3.45 Charlie's Angels. 5.15 Dick Tracy. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Day by Day. 6.30-7.00 Mork and Mindy. 12.25 am Weather followed by Prescriptions and Closedown.

CHANNEL
As Thames except: 12.00-12.30pm Closedown. 1.20-1.30 News 2.45-3.45 Strumpet City. 5.15-5.45 Survival 6.00-6.35 Channel Report 10.28 News. 10.34 Film. Parallax View (see Thames). 12.25am Epilogue followed by Closedown.

TYNE TEES
As Thames except 9.20am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News 1.20pm News 1.25-1.30 Where the Jobs are. 2.45-3.45 Strumpet City. 5.15-5.45 Mork and Mindy. 6.00 News 6.02 Crossroads 6.25-7.00 Northern Life with Tom Coyne. 12.25am It 12.30 Closedown.

ATV
As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Tenspeed and Brown Shoe. (Ben Vereen) 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00 News. 6.05 Crossroads 6.30-7.00 ATV Today 12.25am Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN. † STEREO · BLACK AND WHITE: (r) REPEAT

CHOICE

Sam Dastor as Niccolo Machiavelli (The Borgias: BBC 2 9.25 pm)

● Prison justice is the subject of tonight's STRANGEWAYS (BBC 2 8.20 pm). Ian, a prisoner in the notorious D1 punishment landing, accuses a prison warder of brutality following an argument between them after Ian had collected his meal. That the argument took place is not in doubt but what followed is disputed. It is no light decision for a prisoner to accuse a warder of wrongdoing because if he loses his appeal he stands to lose his remission and have six months added to his sentence. The programme reveals Ian's reaction to the enquiry results in an extraordinarily tense climax.

● The pleasant COLLECTING NOW programme (BBC 2 7.50 pm) tonight comes to the end of its twelve-week run with one of its items on something that has been designated aerotractology. This rather forbidding word describes the collecting of propaganda leaflets dropped by air. Millions of them were despatched to Britain and Germany during World War Two and the collector, Reginald Auckland, shows us some examples — Churchill, Wanted for Murder and The German people offer Peace — are but two. This type of psychology is still being used today in places as far apart as Chile and Taiwan. The presenter, Harriet Crawley, with Gwyn Richards and Penny Junor go on an optimistic buying spree with just £5 each. What sort of collectables can be bought for that amount? Well, Harriet finds a new T-shirt to add to her international collection; Gwyn buys some intriguing photographs and Penny some old toys. It has been an entertaining series. I hope there will be another.

● SEA TO THE WEST, FELLS TO THE EAST (Radio 4 8.15 pm) is a description of Copeland, a little known part of the Lake District. David Miles has compiled a number of recordings illustrating the essence of the area through the eyes and voices of various Cumbrian characters. We learn from a farmer about the odd habits of Herdwick sheep; the miniature scenic railway is described in loving fashion by a train driver; typical Cumbrian recipes are explained by a farmer's wife and an iron ore worker gives his reaction to the closure of the local mines. Among the places we visit is Egremont Crab Fair and we eavesdrop on a competition to find the biggest liar. In addition, Norman Nicholson, Copeland's very own poet, regales us with his thoughts on this beautiful part of the country.

Thatcher backs shake-up for NHS finance

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Government plans to consider an insurance-based health service provoked both strong support and bitter hostility inside and outside Parliament yesterday.

A Government working party is now drawing up a policy document outlining alternative methods of financing the health service, which is 90 per cent paid for out of taxation.

Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Fife Central, said that any attempt to change the present health service would provoke a revolutionary situation but Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, at Commons Question Time, said "the principle that adequate health care should be provided for all, regardless of their ability to pay", would be protected.

The working party is nearing the end of its work. Three options are emerging for the Government to consider but in no sense are they recommendations:

☐ A system based on the French and German model where payment of a basic insurance premium to the equivalent of a friendly society is compulsory to provide a basic level of care, but which can then be topped up by taking our additional insurance with private companies.

☐ A system giving the right to opt out and not pay any premium at all. When the time came for medical treatment, the patient would have to pay the bill himself.

☐ A continuation of the present tax-based system with a considerable expansion of the private sector, and tax relief for insurance premiums.

It is understood that the Government will assess the options and draw up proposals, which might form the basis of the next manifesto.

Private medical companies and the British Medical Association welcomed the fact that the Government was considering alternative financing methods while the trade unions and the National Health Service Consultants' Association condemned the move.

Both groups agreed, however, that the present administrative costs of the health service, which now stand at between 3 and 6 per cent, would increase. The French and German insurance-based systems cost about 10-12 per cent to administer and the United States system costs 21 per cent.

The Government came to office committed to looking at alternative methods of financing the health service in order to try to increase the percentage of gross national product spent on health and to improve the service.

Two civil servants, Miss Joan Firth and Mr Jeremy Hurst, visited Europe and North America respectively at the beginning of this year to study the systems used there.

On July 30, the Government announced that it was setting up a working party to look at the result of their work and to report by the beginning of 1982. Consisting predominantly of civil servants, it had two independent advisers: Mr Michael Lee, of Lee Donaldson Associates, a consultant economist, and Mr Hugh Elwell, an independent consultant on health care, connected to Private Patients' Plan, the country's second largest medical insurance company.

Mr Anthony Grabham, chairman of council at the British Medical Association, said it was "right and proper" that the Government should be exploring alternative methods of financing the health service and the BMA itself had a working party doing the same thing.

The association strongly supported the health service in its present form, however, and felt that any new methods would have to be as efficient at collecting the funds as was the present method.

Dr David Gullick, executive medical adviser of the British United Provident Association (BUPA), said that he favoured a change over to an insurance-based system because he thought people appreciated what they paid for and were less inclined to waste it.

A TUC spokesman said it was "implacably opposed" to an insurance-based system. Such a scheme was heavily bureaucratic because it would involve endless chasing of bills.

It would also make it difficult to implement preventive medicine because doctors were paid for medical procedures rather than giving advice. It often led to a rapid increase in unnecessary operations, as in the United States where a third of all women had had their wombs removed.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Bill Warhurst

Visitors are allowed to walk round the inner circle of Stonehenge every Tuesday now that a rope barrier, put up three years ago to prevent vandalism and erosion of stones, is being taken down once a week for three months. It was blamed for contributing to a fall of a quarter in the number of visitors to the 2,500-year-old monument.

Colour TV licences rise by £12 to £46

By Kenneth Gosling

The price of a colour television licence went up to £46 from midnight last night—an extra £1 a month on the present fee of £34 which has been in force for two years.

The cost of a monochrome licence rises from £12 to £15, an increase that is by tradition kept low.

Announcing the increases for a three-year period, Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, told the Commons that new ways were being found of easing the licence fee burden: a pilot scheme next summer for payment by credit card and in the summer of 1983 a plan to pay by instalments over post office counters.

Sir Ian Trethowan, director-general of the BBC, said, "We are sorry not to have got the £50 we wanted; but one has to recognize the general economic situation against which the Government took the decision.

"With £46 over three years, something that was absolutely crucial, we will be able to maintain existing services and be able to plan for three years ahead for the first time for many years.

"It does mean we will not be able to do everything we had planned. We will have to sit down and work out what we can afford and our priorities and that will take a few weeks".

He said the increases were a success for the specially set-up licence campaign unit, a team of two men and two women who return to their normal BBC jobs after a year explaining the BBC's case. "I think the unit made a difference to the public's acceptance of the increase".

The colour fee increase is 35 per cent, or about 11.6 per cent a year over the three-year period. There are nearly 14 million holders of colour licences and 14,500,000 black and white. That is 300,000 more in total than at the time of the last increase in November 1979.

The Post Office currently deducts about £33m a year for licence collection, anti-evasion measures and other services from the BBC's total income, leaving it £500m.

With the increases, the BBC is expected to receive an income next year of £670m after deductions. That is still £30m less than independent television's net income is expected to be.

After Mr Whitelaw made his Commons statement there was criticism of the fact that no provision was being made at present for pensioners to pay the new fees, although there was general acceptance of the licence fee system.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on Home Affairs, also drew Mr Whitelaw's attention to the situation of hotels like the Savoy in London which were charged for only one licence; he wanted an extra fee to be levied to take account of sets in bedrooms.

Mr Whitelaw acknowledged this anomaly and said he was prepared to consider the best way of implementing the proposal.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Britain's licence ranking

	Colour	Monochrome
Denmark	£72	£43
Sweden	63	48
Belgium	62	43
Norway	62	50
Switzerland	60	60
Finland	59/50	34/25
Austria	57	57
United Kingdom	46	15
France	40	26
Ireland	39	24
Germany (Fed Rep)	37	37
Italy	35	19
Holland	31	31

	Television: Monochrome	Television: Colour	Radio
Nov 1, 1922			10s (50p)
June 1, 1946	£2		£1
June 1, 1954	£3		"
Aug 1, 1957	£4		"
Aug 1, 1965	£5		£1/5s (£1.25)
Jan 1, 1968	£5	£10	"
Jan 1, 1969	£6	£11	"
July 1, 1971	£7	£12	
April 1, 1975	£8	£18	
July 29, 1977	£9	£21	
Nov 25, 1978	£10	£25	
Nov 24, 1979	£12	£34	
Dec 1, 1981	£15	£46	

Britain moves up three places in the European licence fee league table, from eleventh to eighth. In the left-hand table, the figures for Denmark and Holland operate from next month. All countries except Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Britain carry advertising on some services supported by the licence fee. Finland's system is two-tier, the higher amount payable in two-network regions. Seven countries charge a fee for radio only. The other table shows licence fees charged between 1922 and 1979. The separate fee for radio was abolished in 1971.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

The Assumption of Shirley Williams

Yesterday marked the State Opening of Mrs Shirley Williams. She took her seat as the first member elected to Parliament as a candidate of the Social Democratic Party.

What a wealth of pageantry is conveyed by those simple words. Where is the latter-day Dimbleby who could do justice to such a scene? (He is in the BBC, actually). It was a strictly non-controversial occasion. All her public appearances are. Being one of the most senior members of the SDP she is of course not allowed, under the British Constitution, to make known her political opinions. As a result of this system, which has served the nation so well for almost an entire year, Mrs Williams and her friends win nearly all the elections.

Mrs Williams arrived at the Bar of the House. She was looking very smart. This meant that she had sacked Oxfam as her couturier. The new team had kitted her out in a two-piece which a female colleague in the press gallery informed me was in French blue. That sounded vaguely improper for the representative of so religious a constituency.

By-election winners have to take their seats at the end of Question Time and ministerial statements. Yesterday there were long statements from Mr Whitelaw, Home Secretary, on the BBC licence fee, and Mr Howell, Secretary for Transport, on heavy lorries. Mrs Williams had to wait for over an hour. Now she knows how it feels.

Members high and low came by to pay their respects. Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, was granted an audience. Mr Stephen Hastings, a right-wing Tory, shook her hand. Mr Jack Ashley, for Labour, gave her a kiss on the cheek. She talked with Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, the member for Thornaby and a defector to the SDP. He is presumably the man who puts the wriggle in her policies.

The House was unusually crowded. People peered at Mrs Williams from all corners. The day's business alone could not justify such a crowd. It was Mrs Williams who had drawn it. The Peers' Gallery was full. That is always a macabre sight—resembling, as it does, a very up-market eventide home or some annexe to *The Times* obituary column, where the distinguished await their turn.

Prime Minister's Questions got under way. Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, protested about the financial crisis affecting the British Museum. A suitable home should certainly be found for Mr Foot but this hardly seemed to be the most disinterested way in which he could go about it.

Certain Tories interrupted him with vulgar cries of "that's where you should be", and so on. "The barbarians opposite are not interested in great institutions such as the British Museum," he said. That was true. To those barbarians, the British museum is so old it ought to be in a museum. Mr Foot was right to rebuke them. Alas, he got nowhere with Mrs Thatcher.

Next, Mrs Williams had to linger on while Mr Willie Whitelaw put up the BBC licence fee and there was a long quarrel about the effect on old age pensioners. Mrs Williams would have noticed that our traditions had not changed during her absence since the last general election. For Mr Whitlaw produced a fine Willie-ism.

A Willie-ism, it will be remembered, is a remark similar to the one he made during the 1976 Common Market referendum when he accused the Labour Party of "going around stirring up apathy." Yesterday someone asked whether, in view of the anomalies, he would examine alternatives. With characteristic compassion, he replied: "We are examining alternative anomalies."

As soon as Mr Whitelaw sat down, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Foot had an excuse to leave and thus avoid viewing the Assumption of Shirley. But Mr Edward Heath stayed on, being prepared to sit through Mr Secretary for Transport on heavy lorries. Mr Heath has no interest in heavy lorries, except one which might cause a vacancy in the office previously held by himself.

There came the moment awaited by all people of goodwill throughout the nation as well as by existing SDP MPs. Mrs Williams advanced between her two sponsors, Dr Owen and Mr Rodgers. The French blue looked wonderful. Dr Owen was wearing it too. Mr Rodgers looked a dream in Burton's grey.

Mrs Williams took the oath and passed out of view. Mr Heath left. He had not had such a good time since Mrs Thatcher's economic strategy collapsed. The rest of Mrs Williams's career will be discussed in this space.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Tomorrow's events

The Queen holds investiture, 11, and with the Duke of Edinburgh attends reception at Guildhall to celebrate centenary of the London Chamber of Commerce, 6.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as a trustee of the National Maritime Museum, attends trustees' meeting at the museum, Greenwich, 10 am, and as Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, visits Army Scaling Authority, Woolwich, 12.30. At 8 pm he attends dinner given by Royal Navy Club in Porter Tun Room, Whitbreads, Chiswell St, Islington, London.

Princess Margaret visits Liverpool.

The Duke of Kent presents chemistry prizes at Court Luncheon of the Worshipful Company of Salters, Salters' Hall, 12.55.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, visits Yehudi Menuhin School at Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey, 11.15, and as Colonel-in-Chief, attends Army Catering Corps directors' 40th anniversary reception and cocktail party, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 7.30.

Princess Alexandra visits Park Lane Fair, Park Lane Hotel, London, in the afternoon.

Exhibitions

"Portrait Award 1981", National Portrait Gallery, 10-5.

"Sandro Chia", 23 Dering Street, New Bond Street, London, 10-5.

Children's paintings, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London, 10-5.30.

"Hurry Along Please—100 years of public transport in Oxfordshire", Oxfordshire County Museum, 10-4.

Talks, lectures

"Conservation in Britain", Natural History Museum, 10-6.

"Greek grave reliefs", Anne Pearson, 11.30. "Who were the Sumerians?", David Williams, 1.15, British Museum.

"War Without Winners", Middlesex Hospital Medical School, Cleveland St, St Pancras, London, 5.30.

"Earthquakes", 11.0, "The Granites of Britain", 2.30, Geological Museum, South Kensington, London.

Music

Felsted School Chamber Choir, St Mary-le-Bow, 1.05.

Recital by Mark Van Der Wiel (clarinet) and Robert Lockhart (piano) St John's Smith Square, Westminster, 1.15.

Recital by Holst Singers of London, St Margaret's, Westminster, 7.45.

Terry Smith Blues Band, The Canteen, 4 Great Queen Street, Covent Garden, 9pm-1am.

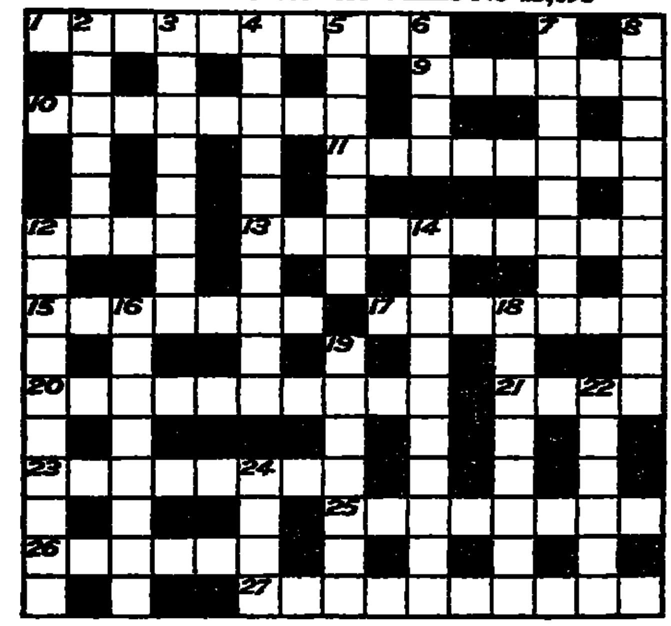
Walks

"Best of British Pubs Night", meet Bond Street Tube, 7.30.

Poetry

Reading by Peter Bland and Peter Reading, National Poetry Centre, 21 Earls Court Square, London, 7.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,695



ACROSS

1 A man of moods, perhaps (10).
9 Smoke swirling round one in northern parts (6).
10 As far as a beautician can go? (4-4).
11 Descartes, aged sort of apostate (8).
12 A trifle to give this playwright a kick (4).
13 But not the home of New Scotland Yard (4-6).
15 The outlook at Shalott damaged one of them (7).
17 It's a snip! (7).
20 Players on the other side prohibited entry to country? (10).
21 One among the best artistes, of course (4).
23 Staple food of some Sussex citizens? (3-5).
25 Where to see displays of craftsmanship? (8).
26 Allure, possibly, of a film star (6).
27 Give the head of department a little publicity (10).

DOWN

2 Inclined to be jaunty? (6).
3 Tynwald's available personnel (8).
4 British queen captured one—hence Cleopatra's needle. (10).
5 What one cannot do on a perfect day (7).
6 Gas none can reconstitute (4).
7 Huge caper at 25, perhaps? (8).
8 Woodman goes round about as a prophet (10).
12 It's described between Poles (10).
14 Picture George's opponent in the game (10).
16 He can't say "I won't be a second" (6-2).
18 Favours shown to the electorate (8).
19 One liable to take a sound beating (7).
22 Where Burlington Bertie's went shopping? (6).
24 Pat her on the knee (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 15,694

BLOODYMARY SOLO
TRANSGRESS SERE
CONTEMPLATES
SEMIFINAL OUTER
AFRIT CODENAMES
RISORGIMENTO
CAID BARGAINING
EONS BELEAGUERS

The papers

The Daily Mirror supports the channel tunnel scheme suggested by a consortium headed by British Steel. It would be privately funded, create 100,000 British jobs, and improve trade the paper says. It would show that even in a depression Britain has enough faith to launch the biggest building project ever undertaken in Europe.

The Daily Express comments on the near miss between an Andover of the Queen's Flight, with Prince Philip at the controls, and a jumbo jet carrying 200 holidaymakers. It asked why the Duke, at 60, was flying a 17-year-old aircraft from Salford to Gatwick. "Even if the aircraft is not too old to fly, he is too old to be flying it." The Duke should stop playing Biggles the paper says.

Music best sellers

Best selling records last week were: 1, Holst: The Planets—Karajan (DG2532019). 2, Elgar: Sea Pictures and Marches—Handley (CFP40363). 3, Poulenc: Les Biches Suite—Pretre (HMV ASD4067). 4, Delius: The Fenby Legacy — Fenby (Unicorn DKP9008-9). 5, Beethoven: Violin Concerto — Giulini/Perlman (HMV ASD4059). 6, Ponchielli: La Giaconda—Bartoletti (Decca D232D3). 7, Tippett: King Priam—Atherton (Decca D246D3). 8, Liszt: Orchestral Works Vol I—Masur (HMV SLS5235). 9, Beethoven: Symphony No 9—Boehm (DG2741009). 10, Bartok: Concerto for Orchestra—Solti (Decca SXDL7536).

The Times list of best-selling books

Hardback

Hangovers	Clement Freud/ Bill Tidy	Sheldon Press	£3.95
Robot	Jan Pienkowski	Heinemann	£5.95
Royal Wedding	Audrey Daly	Ladybird	50p
In and Out of the Garden	Sara Midda	Sidgwick & Jackson	£5.95
Guinness Book of Records 1982		Guinness	£4.99
HRH Princess Margaret: A Life Unfulfilled	Nigel Dempster	Quartet	£7.95
The Day Job	Terry Wogan	Queen Anne Press	£5.25
The Kingdom	Robert Lacey	Hutchinson	£9.95
Trevor Brooking	Trevor Brooking/ Brian Scovell	Pelham	£6.95
Spot's First Walk	Eric Hill	Heinemann	£3.95

The Times list is based on trade sales through Hammick's to 400 bookshops and verified retail sales through eight Hammick's bookshops and 20 others.

The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.73	1.66
Austria Sch	32.10	30.00
Belgium Fr	83.75	79.75
Canada $	2.38	2.29
Denmark Kr	14.45	13.75
France Fr	11.38	10.78
Germany DM	4.51	4.27
Greece Dr	122.00	114.00
Hongkong $	11.45	10.85
Ireland Pd	1.27	1.22
Italy Lire	2420.00	2320.00
Japan Yen	446.00	420.00
Netherlands Gld	4.92	4.68
Portugal Esc	132.00	125.00
South Africa Rd	1.92	1.76
Spain Pta	193.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	11.04	10.50
Switzerland Fr	3.65	3.43
USA $	2.01	1.94

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

London: The *FT* Index fell 7.0 to 530.8.

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 1.24 at 890.22.

Auctions today

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: watercolours and drawings, 11. Christie's, King Street: English silver, 11; modern prints and illustrated books, 11 and 2.30. Christie's, South Kensington: carpets and objects of art, 10.30; English and Continental pictures, 10.30 and 2; furniture, 1; domestic metalware, 2. Phillips, Blenheim Street: English and Continental ceramics and glass, 11; dolls and related material, 12. Sotheby's, Bond Street: Impressionist paintings, 11; Impressionist drawings, 3.15. Sotheby's, Belgravia: English furniture and works of art, 11.

Sporting fixtures

Football: Football League Cup, fourth round: Barnsley v Manchester City (7.30); Nottingham Forest v Tranmere Rovers (7.30); Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham (7.45). Third round replay. Bradford City v Ipswich Town (7.30). FA Cup, first round, second replay: Port Vale v Lincoln City (7.30). Third Division: Chester v Doncaster Rovers (7.30).

Racing: Fontwell Park (12.45), Ayr (12.30).

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on emergency in prisons and ways to overcome it. Lords (2.30): Debate on effects of government policies on education, training opportunities and industrial efficiency.

Roads

Midlands: M1: Lane closures both directions between junction 23 (A512, Loughborough) and junction 24 (A453, East Midlands airport). M5: Only one lane in use southbound from junction 7 (A44, Worcester, south) to junction 8 (M50 intersection). A422: Roadworks one mile south of Stratford, Warwickshire.

The North: A1: Outside lanes closed at various points between Pontefract and Wetherby, West Yorkshire. A59: Temporary traffic lights at Skipton, North Yorkshire. A177/B6291: Delays at Coxhoe by-pass, co Durham.

Today's anniversaries

Hernán Cortés, conqueror of Mexico, died at Seville, 1547; John Brown, United States abolitionist, was hanged at Charlestown jail, 1859. St Paul's Cathedral opened, 1697. Napoleon defeated Austrians and Russians at Austerlitz, 1805.

Christmas dates

Parking

During the Christmas and New Year periods yellow line parking restrictions will continue to be enforced in greater London. Many restrictions will apply even on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, but parking meter spaces will be free.

Phoning

Children can telephone Santa Claus from December 8 to 29 for a story. The number in London is 246 8020. In most other places it is 8020 preceded by the area code.

Posting

Next Saturday is the latest recommended posting date for Christmas cards, letters, printed papers and parcels sent by ship to BFPOs 15 to 50 and 102-110, and by air to BFPOs 10, 162, 605 and 656. Other airmail deadlines: December 14, BFPOs 6, 8, 15-50, 14. December 9, BFPOs 1 and 2 (and by ship to BFPOs 801 to 809, 811, 813 and 825). December 12, BFPOs 12, 53, 57, 58 and 567. December 14, BFPOs 6, 8, 15-50, 52, 54, 102-110 and 163. December 15, BFPOs 801-809, 811, 813 and 825.

Banking

London clearing banks will close at 12 noon on Thursday, December 24, and reopen on Tuesday, December 29, and be closed all day Friday, January 1.

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Weather

Large anticyclone slow-moving to SW of Britain with weak trough moving S over England and Wales.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E England, East Anglia: Mostly dry, bright intervals, perhaps a little drizzle later; wind NW, light; temp 6 or 7C (43 to 45F).
Central S, Central N, SW England, Midlands: Early fog patches, bright intervals, becoming rather cloudy with perhaps a little drizzle later; wind NW, light; max temp 6 or 7C (43 to 45F).
Channel Islands: Mainly dry, bright periods, becoming rather cloudy; wind NW, light; max temp 8C (46F).
Wales, NW England: Rather cloudy, occasional drizzle in places, hill fog; wind NW, light; max temp 9C (48F).
Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Orkney: Rather cloudy occasional drizzle, hill fog, becoming mainly dry and brighter away from W coasts; wind NW, backing SW, light; max temp 10C (50F).
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: Rather cloudy possibly a little drizzle, becoming mostly dry, bright intervals developing; wind W, light; max temp 8C (46F).
Shetlands: Rather cloudy, occasional drizzle, hill fog. Wind W, light or moderate; max temp 9C (48F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Mostly dry at first with bright intervals, chiefly in S and E, some overnight fog patches. Occasional rain spreading to N and E areas on Friday. Temperatures mostly near or rather above normal.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind NW, light or moderate; sea slight. English Channel (E), St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW, light; sea smooth.

Sun rises: 7.45 am. Sun sets: 3.55 pm. Moon rises: 12.6 pm. Moon sets: 9.13 pm.

First quarter: December 4.

Lighting up time

London 4.25 pm to 7.17 am
Bristol 4.35 pm to 7.26 am
Edinburgh 4.13 pm to 7.52 am
Manchester 4.23 pm to 7.35 am
Penzance 4.52 pm to 7.32 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	d	6	43	Guernsey	s	8	46
Birmingham	s	5	41	Inverness	c	2	36
Blackpool	s	5	41	Jersey	f	8	46
Bristol	s	7	45	London	c	6	43
Cardiff	s	6	43	Manchester	s	3	37
Edinburgh	f	1	34	Newcastle	s	4	39
Glasgow	s	0	32	Ronaldsway	c	7	45

London

Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 3C (37F). Humidity: 6 pm, 66 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, a trace. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.6hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,028.7 millibars, rising.

Highest and lowest

Highest day max: Gwennap Head, 12C (54F). Lowest day max: Lerwick, 2C (36F). Highest rainfall: Carrigans, .28in. Highest sunshine: Swanage, 7.2hr.

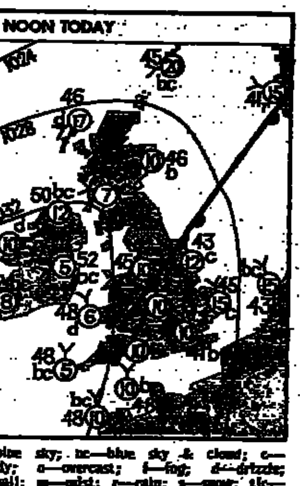
Satellite predictions

Figures give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of setting. Asterisk denotes entering or leaving eclipse.

MANCHESTER: Dynamics Explorer: 17.40-17.43; NE*; 40E; SSE and 19.18-19.19; WNW*; 10WNW; W and (tomorrow) 4.44-4.48; ESE; 15ENE; NE and 6.19-6.27; S; 60WSW; N. Seasat: 17.2-17.7; NE; 15NNE; N and 18.43-18.46; N*; 30N; NNW and 20.23-20.24; NW*; 20NW; NW.

Predictions supplied by Earth Satellite Unit, Aston University.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded Symbols are on advancing edge

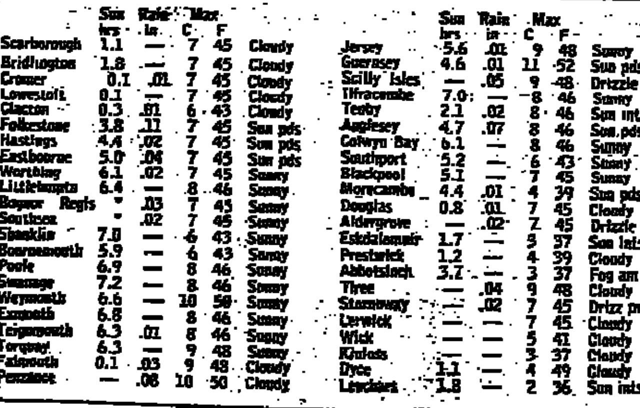


b—blue sky; bc—blue sky & cloud; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; prs—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Milford Haven	9.12	5.9	9.32	5.6
Newquay	8.05	6.0	8.26	5.7
Oban	8.39	3.5	8.44	3.3
Penzance	7.29	5.1	7.51	4.7
Portland	9.31	1.9	9.53	1.6
Portsmouth	2.28	4.1	2.33	4.0
Shoreham	1.55	5.5	2.12	5.4
Southampton	1.52	4.1	2.02	4.1
Swansea	9.18	8.3	9.36	8.0
Tees	6.57	4.6	7.03	4.9
Wltn-on-the-Nze	2.29	3.9	3.00	3.9

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.



Around Britain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarborough	1.1	—	7	45	Cloudy
Bridlington	1.8	—	7	45	Cloudy
Cromer	0.1	.01	7	45	Cloudy
Lowestoft	0.1	—	7	45	Cloudy
Clacton	0.3	.01	6	43	Cloudy
Folkestone	3.8	.11	7	45	Sun pds
Hastings	4.4	.02	7	45	Sun pds
Eastbourne	5.0	.04	7	45	Sun pds
Worthing	6.1	.02	7	45	Sunny
Littlehmptn	6.4	—	8	46	Sunny
Bognor Regis	*	.03	7	45	Sunny
Southsea	*	.02	7	45	Sunny
Shanklin	7.0	—	6	43	Sunny
Bournemouth	5.9	—	6	43	Sunny
Poole	6.9	—	8	46	Sunny
Swanage	7.2	—	8	46	Sunny
Weymouth	6.6	—	10	50	Sunny
Exmouth	6.8	—	8	46	Sunny
Teignmouth	6.3	.01	8	46	Sunny
Torquay	6.3	—	9	48	Sunny
Falmouth	0.1	.03	9	48	Cloudy
Penzance	—	.08	10	50	Cloudy
Jersey	5.6	.01	9	48	Sunny
Guernsey	4.6	.01	11	52	Sun pds
Scilly Isles	—	.05	9	48	Drizzle
Ilfracombe	7.0	—	8	46	Sunny
Tenby	2.1	.02	8	46	Sun ints
Anglesey	4.7	.07	8	46	Sun pds
Colwyn Bay	6.1	—	8	46	Sunny
Southport	5.2	—	6	43	Sunny
Blackpool	5.1	—	7	45	Sunny
Morecambe	4.4	.01	4	39	Sun pds
Douglas	0.8	.01	7	45	Cloudy
Aldergrove	—	.02	7	45	Drizzle
Eskdalemuir	1.7	—	5	37	Sun ints
Prestwick	1.2	—	4	39	Cloudy
Abbotsinch	3.7	—	3	37	Fog am
Tiree	—	.04	9	48	Cloudy
Stornoway	—	.02	7	45	Drizz pm
Lerwick	—	—	7	45	Cloudy
Wick	—	—	5	41	Cloudy
Kinloss	—	—	3	37	Cloudy
Dyce	1.1	—	4	49	Cloudy
Leuchars	1.8	—	2	36	Sun ints

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	c	15	59	Cologne	r	3	37	Los Angeles	s	17	63	Rio de Jan	f	32	90
Akrotiri	c	20	68	Copenhagen	c	3	37	Luxembourg	sn	2	36	Rome	c	16	61
Alexandria	f	22	72	Corfu	s	12	54	Madrid	s	11	52	Salzburg			
Algiers	s	20	68	Dallas	s	13	55	Majorca	s	18	64	Sao Paulo	c	27	81
Amsterdam	c	6	43	Denver	f	4	39	Malaga	s	19	66	San Fransco	s	11	52
Athens	s	15	59	Dublin	d	8	46	Malta	s	17	63	Santiago			
Bahrain				Dubrovnik	f	10	50	Melbourne	f	20	68	Seoul	s	27	81
Barbados				Florence	r	9	48	Milan	s	11	52	Stockholm	r	2	36
Barcelona	f	18	64	Frankfurt	c	4	39	Montreal	c	-2	28	Strasbourg	c	4	34
Beirut	s	21	70	Funchal	c	21	70	Moscow	sn	0	32	Sydney	c	21	70
Belgrade	c	6	43	Geneva	s	4	39	Munich	sn	0	32	Tangier	s	19	66
Berlin	c	3	37	Gibraltar	s	18	64	Nairobi				Tehran			
Bermuda				Helsinki	s	1	34	Naples	r	12	54	Tel Aviv	s	20	68
Biarritz	r	14	57	Hongkong	c	18	64	New York	r	2	36	Tenerife	s	22	72
Boulogne	c	6	43	Innsbruck	sn	2	36	Nice	s	15	59	Toronto	d	2	36
Bordeaux	c	9	48	Istanbul	r	10	50	Oslo	s	-2	28	Vancouver	f	8	46
Boston	c	8	46	Jeddah	s	30	86	Ottawa				Venice	f	4	39
Brussels	c	6	43	Johannesburg				Paris	s	7	45	Vienna	c	4	39
Budapest	c	1	34	Las Palmas	s	20	68	Prague	c	-1	30	Warsaw	c	0	32
Casablanca	s	19	66	Lisbon	s	16	61	Reykjavik	c	8	46	Washington	r	5	41
Chicago	sn	3	37	Locarno				Rhodes	r	13	55	Zurich	c	2	36